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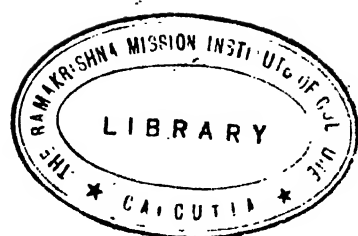
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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume VIII, 1934

(23rd August to 31st August, 1934)

EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1934



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1934



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Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E.

Deputy President :

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

DR. ZIAUDDIN AHMAD, C.I.E., M.L.A.

RAO BAHADUR M. C. RAJAH, M.L.A.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR HENRY GIDNEY, KT., M.L.A.

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions :

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A., Chairman.

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR HARI SINGH GOUB, KT., M.L.A.

RAI BAHADUR KUNWAR RAGHUBIR SINGH, M.L.A.

MR. A. H. GHUZNAVI, M.L.A.

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CORRIGENDA.

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Simla Session, 1934—

(1) Vol. VI, No. 3, dated the 18th July, 1934—

(i) page 199, lines 11 and 12, *for* "and upon or" *read* "and/or."

(ii) page 246, in the first column of the statement, line 5, *for* "than as" *read* "thanas."

(2) Vol. VI, No. 4, dated the 19th July, 1934,—

(i) page 354, line 2, *for* "answers" *read* "answered."

(ii) page 378, *delete* "Appeared before Unit Advisory Committee on the 24th August, 1933."

(iii) page 413, in the statement laid on the table in reply to starred question No. 333, parts (a) and (e), line 1, *for* "have the reason" *read* "have no reason."

(iv) page 418, in the statement laid on the table in reply to starred question No. 414, part (b), line 7, *for* "services" *read* "service."

(v) page 462, line 8 from the bottom, *for* "curiosity" *read* "curiosity."

(3) Vol. VI, No. 6, dated the 24th July, 1934, page 550, first headline, *for* "promised to reply given to" *read* "promised in reply to."

(4) Vol. VI, No. 8, dated the 26th July, 1934, page 711, line 19, *for* "dection" *read* "election."

(5) Vol. VI, No. 9, dated the 30th July, 1934,—

(i) page 745, answer to starred question No. 292, parts (e) and (h),—

(a) line 2, *delete* "only."

(b) line 6, *delete* "therefore,"

(ii) page 746, answer to starred question No. 295, part (c), line 6, *for* "these" *read* "the."

(6) Vol. VI, No. 11, dated the 1st August, 1934, page 875, line 9, *for* "benefit" *read* "benefits."

(7) Vol. VII, No. 1, dated the 6th August, 1934,—

(i) page 1022, *insert* "List of Publications," as heading on the top of the statement.

(ii) page 1036, *insert* "Leakage of Carriages on the Bombay Suburban Service." as heading to starred question No. 394.

(iii) page 1037, *delete* the heading "Leakage of Carriages on the Bombay Suburban Service" at the top of the page.

(8) Vol. VII, No. 2, dated the 7th August, 1934,—

(i) page 1128, lines 8 and 9, *for* "reference this Corps" *read* "reference to this Corps."

(ii) page 1148, line 13 from the bottom, *for* "than" *read* "that."

(9) Vol. VII, No. 3, dated the 8th August, 1934, page 1240, line 15, *for* "pround" *read* "proud."

(10) Vol. VII, No. 5, dated the 13th August, 1934,—

(i) page 1369, line 5, *for* "time or war" *read* "time of war."

(ii) page 1404, line 15 from the bottom, *delete* the word "of" where it occurs for the second time.

(11) Vol. VII, No. 6, dated the 14th August, 1934,—

(i) page 1447, line 4, *for* "Proposal" *read* "A proposal."

(ii) page 1482, line 5 from the bottom, *for* "claims" *read* "chains."

(12) Vol. VII, No. 7, dated the 15th August, 1934, page 1528, line 9 from the bottom, *for* "decease" *read* "deceased."

(13) Vol. VII, No. 8, dated the 16th August, 1934, page 1589, line 28, *for* "this" *read* "his."

(14) Vol. VII, No. 11, dated the 22nd August, 1934,—

(i) page 1959, line 7, *for* "in" *read* "is."

(ii) page 1971, line 5 from the bottom, *for* "of their" *read* "of their own."

(iii) page 1975, line 14, *for* "plus 1 times" *read* "plus 1½ times."

(15) Vol. VIII, No. 1, dated the 23rd August, 1934,—

(i) page 1987, line 2 from the bottom, *for* "it is duty" *read* "it is the duty."

(ii) page 2019, line 4, *for* "they" *read* "thy."

(16) Vol. VIII, No. 2, dated the 25th August, 1934,—

(i) page 2051, line 11, *for* "necessary" *read* "necessity."

(ii) page 2054, line 6, *for* "natural" *read* "nature."

(iii) page 2073, line 16, *for* "to" *read* "of."

(17) Vol. VIII, No. 4, dated the 28th August, 1934, page 2266, line 6, *for* "varoius" *read* "various."

(18) Vol. VIII, No. 5, dated the 29th August, 1934, page 2273, lines 11 and 12 from the bottom, *for* "legislation my Government had no previous intimation" *read* "legislation. My Government had no previous intimation."

(19) Vol. VIII, No. 6, dated the 30th August, 1934,—

(i) page 2328,—

(a) line 16 from the bottom, *for* "information I have already given" *read* "information I have, I have already given."

(b) line 9 from the bottom, *for* "Rs. 15,025, which is contrary to the rule of the Great Indian Peninsula" *read* "Rs. 15,025 has been received by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from."

(ii) page 2385, line 14, *insert* "we" before "are."

(iii) page 2399, line 23, *for* "January, 1932" *read* "January, 1934."

(20) Vol. VIII, No. 7, dated the 31st August, 1934, page 2490, line 16, *for* "batterment" *read* "betterment."

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 23rd August, 1934.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock,
• Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

THE GIRLS PROTECTION BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the following motion moved by Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh :

“ That the Bill to protect Minor Girls be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, the Honourable the Home Member, Sir Abdur Rahim, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Diwan Bahadur Harbilas Sarda, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan, Sardar Nihal Singh, Goswami M. R. Puri, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. F. E. James and the Mover, with instructions to report within a week, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.

The Chair thinks he did not finish his speech on the last occasion.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I uttered one sentence on the previous occasion and I shall try to finish my speech in another sentence, and that is this. When my Honourable friend, Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, was speaking on the Minor Girls Bill, I, by way of interruption, stated that Mr. Satyamurti had gone back upon his opinion and was no longer a supporter of the Temple Entry Bill. That is an unfortunate misrepresentation of facts, and I owe an apology to Mr. Satyamurti. Mr. Satyamurti was at no time a supporter of the Temple Entry Bill and he has succeeded in making the Congress drop the Bill.

• **Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I have full sympathy with the object which my Honourable friend, the Mover of the Bill, has got in view, but unfortunately, there are some phrases used in the Bill which might be misunderstood by the House. Nobody can deny that there is a custom prevailing in this country by which a man, even when much advanced in age, wants to get married to a young girl. We read in the newspapers a few days ago that a man of 70 years of age wanted to marry a girl of 11 years, and the parents of that girl were willing to give the child in marriage to that old man. If this kind of custom prevails and if the parents are so unscrupulous as to give their little children in marriage to old men, then it is duty of the country to stop this evil at once. What my Honourable friend has meant by using the word “ sale ” is really the

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[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

marriage which is contracted by the parents getting certain monetary consideration. He does not mean sale as a slave. Slavery is prohibited in this country, and we have got penal provisions by which slavery can be easily dealt with. I think the defect there is at present would have been got over quite easily in the Select Committee had we sufficient time to deal with this Bill. My Honourable friend has rendered great service by bringing to the notice of the Government and the country the great evil that exists today, and I would have supported that this Bill should go to a Select Committee if we had had sufficient time for the purpose. My Honourable friend's services to the country will be remembered and he has been supported by many great authorities, such as Judges of High Courts, in his view but I should ask him to wait till the next Assembly comes. I am sure, he will be returned to this Assembly and he will have then opportunities of coming before the House with a Bill like this. Even if the motion for a Select Committee is accepted, the net result would be that the Committee will never sit at all and the Bill will lapse. I think he will be best advised and he will show generosity by giving the other people a chance of moving their Bills if they so desire, because this is the last non-official day for Bills in this Assembly. My Honourable friend will find a lot of supporters in the next Assembly, and he will save the time of the House by withdrawing this Bill at this juncture.

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I thank sincerely the supporters of the Bill as well as those who have opposed it as they evinced great interest in the matter of the betterment of the condition of minor girls. Secondly, the measure provided a lively debate and the star speakers in the House took part and the debate did not lack in humour. I, however, regret that the debate was prolonged inordinately to put off the Temple Entry Bill which was never my intention as was given out in some newspapers. I am a Sanatanist no doubt, but not an obstructionist. So, the talk of conspiracy is meaningless and mischievous. Mr. Sitaramaraju said that girls of over 14 years had not been protected by the Bill, but I may say that a girl over 14 can understand her interest, and, therefore, she does not require any protection. What Manu speaks of is a present and not a sale price. All have said that the principle of the Bill is sound and the object laudable. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai said that Muhammadans take some price in his part of the country, but the overwhelming majority of respectable Muhammadans in the country is in favour of my Bill, as I showed the other day. Social pressure failed to eradicate the evil, and hence the Bill. Otherwise I would not have brought it. We have seen that there are many matters in which society holds strong views, but they cannot carry much further because of the large number of illiterate people. Had the public opinion been sufficiently strong I would not have thought of bringing forward this Bill. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad read out the opinions of the United Provinces Government. I am surprised that a Nationalist and an Independent should give the Government's opinion, but I may tell him that a Muslim Pir, Maulana Hasan Nizami, and the Chief Justice of our High Court who is also a Muhammadan, have supported the Bill. Sir Nripendra Sircar asked how sale is to be defined. I will say, "giving a daughter

for monetary gain and without considering the welfare of the girl " is sale. Sir Hari Singh Gour in his book, " The Hindu Code ", says :

" Out of eight forms of marriage, all except the Brahma and the Asura forms are said to be obsolete.

This refers to marriages among Hindus under the Mitakshara Law, and they are discredited."

So, Sir, the argument that the Asura form of marriage requires the paying of price for the bride is also untrue. Sir Hari Singh Gour has rightly pointed out that Asura form of marriage is out of use and discredited. I agree with Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar that there are evils in society but we should also try to remove them. It was said that the evil is not very prevalent, but in the United Provinces and that among the Aggarwala community, the Marwaris and in Bihar and Rajputana, the evil is prevalent. He is also in full sympathy. Mr. Jadhav says the motive is very good. Legislation will be able to do it as it is doing with the Sarda Act. Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar says that the evil does not exist in Madras but the Women's Association there is in favour of the Bill. So it does require such a remedy. The Honourable the Home Member said that marriages in this country were based on some pecuniary consideration but this is not true of some marriages as all people are not greedy. Then it was pointed out that the Muslims resent the application of this Bill to them but it is nowhere given in the opinions which have been received. Then it was said that in the case of Christians this Bill was unnecessary but the Cambridge Mission of Delhi supports my Bill, which shows that the Christians also want such a measure. The House has shown full sympathy with the object of the Bill and the opinions show that the motive is laudable. At least I have been able to arouse public opinion in the matter and this august Assembly has shown sympathy, as does the Government also. Hence my purpose is served and I have been shown difficulties to be encountered in its working and I am satisfied that a better framed Bill would better serve the purpose, and, therefore, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Bill. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Has the Honourable Member the leave of the Assembly to withdraw his motion ?

Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

THE UNTOUCHABILITY ABOLITION BILL.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah (Noniminated Non-Official) : Sir, on the 1st of February of this year, the House adopted a motion for circulating this Bill to elicit public opinion by the 1st August, 1934. Till today we have received opinions on this Bill from Bengal, Assam, Madras, Delhi, Baluchistan, North-West Frontier Province, Coorg, Bihar and Orissa, and yet opinions have to come from Provinces like Bombay, Central Provinces, United Provinces, Punjab and other Provinces, and, therefore, without complete opinions, I do not think that any useful purpose will be served in my moving my motion today. Moreover, Sir, today being the last non-official day, I do not propose to make my motion today.

THE HINDU TEMPLE ENTRY DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to move what is known as the Temple Entry Bill, to remove the disabilities of the so-called depressed classes. Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill to remove the disabilities of the so-called Depressed Classes in regard to entry into Hindu temples be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar, the Honourable Sir Henry Craik, Bhai Parmu Nand, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi, Rao Bahadur B. J. Patil and the Mover ”—

I will delete, with your permission, the words “ with instructions to report within a fortnight ” and then I will continue the remaining portion of the motion :

“ and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

Sir, at the time I gave notice of this motion, I did not think that before a fortnight we would be going into the wilderness. Therefore, I recognise the limitations of this motion, for there will be no time even to go to a Select Committee. I recognise that it gives us an opportunity to express our opinion on the subject.

I have already stated that I owed an apology to Mr. Satyamurti, for, while interrupting Mr. Mudaliar, I was not in a position naturally as he was rushing along with his speech to explain myself fully and he would have been at a disadvantage if I had done so. I recognise that Mr. Satyamurti, who was at no time in favour of the Temple Entry Bill, has succeeded in making the Congress drop it. I read the following written statement of Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar in the *Hindu* of Madras, dated the 16th August. The *Hindu* is a very responsible newspaper, and as it is not a mere telegraphic interview, but a written statement, I believe Mr. Rajagopalachariar's statement can be taken as accurate. Mr. Rajagopalachariar is apologising to the public for his betrayal of the cause of the untouchables. As the principal lieutenant of Mahatma Gandhi, his betrayal must be placed on record. He says :

“ The question has been asked by some Sanatanists whether Congress candidates will give an undertaking that Congress will not support any legislative interference with religious observances. Similar questions may be asked on a variety of topics by persons and groups interested in each one of them. That such questions are asked only of the Congress candidates and similar elucidation is not attempted in respect of other parties and independent candidates is a very great compliment paid to the Congress.”

So, says, Sriman Rajagopalachari. And, instead of following up the compliment and arousing public opinion on an unpopular measure, here is a great Congress leader who sat *dharna* at our houses with his son-in-law, Devidas Gandhi, who repeatedly called on me at Delhi and said “ We seek joint support for this legislative measure ”,—here is a man who goes back “ like a crab ”, to borrow the language of Shakespeare. Political parties, explains this subtle brain from the South, have distinctive policies on various questions covering a wide field :

“ Not all of them, however, are made into election issues at any one time.”

Sir, this Congress leader is afraid of facing the public opinion which he has roused.

Sir, are the Congress people slaves ?

“They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak.”

According to Milton, “To say and straight unsay argues no liar but a coward traced”. (*Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghbir Singh* : “Question”.) My friend questions. Not being a Congressman, the epithet does not apply to him. I was quoting Milton. Mr. Rajagopalachari unsays now what he had been saying long before the General Election from every platform in the following words :

• “The Congress candidates go to the electorate in this election on well-defined political issues.”

That is to say, they go to the electorate with a view to pandering to the prejudice of the masses whom they have misled, so much so, that they have got themselves into a bog. Lord Willingdon came to their rescue, to take them out of the bog by announcing the dissolution of this Assembly and giving them an opportunity, as a constitutional Viceroy, to return to the sheltered paths of constitutionalism. Therefore, they have run away from their own convictions and are playing every trick to come back to the Legislature with as large a number as possible. Had they gone on with the Temple Entry Bill or the untouchability question, they would have lost many votes, for it is not a popular issue. I said so, though Mahatma Gandhi contradicted me publicly at the time. I said so when Shankaracharya was staying in Malabar in my brother's house at Palghat. My brother came on a deputation to the Viceroy to oppose the Bill. I said : “I know, the reformer is not in a majority in Malabar”. Nowhere else are the reformers in a majority but the reformers believe in persuading the majority to their way of thinking. Then, I said—whatever the result of a referendum the Congress people might have taken in Guruvayur in Malabar might be, I could not for a moment believe that the majority of the temple going people in Malabar were in favour of admitting the untouchables into the temples ; but, I was prepared to fight them, also to argue with them and to persuade them and to make them take an interest in the cause and the case of the untouchables, for, I feel, the untouchables are a part of my community. Sir, if one-third of my community is to remain submerged in exclusion in the name of religion, I feel, as I have always felt and said, that that community has no right to existence. It is with a view to the unification of the Hindu community, it is with a view to building up the greatness of the future of that community on the past of that community, when untouchability was quite unknown as in the Vedic ages, that I have taken up their cause. And now, I find Congressmen, so keen about untouchability yesterday, explaining why they are not taking it up today. Mr. Rajagopalachari has driven the last nail into the coffin of the Temple Entry Bill, as Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, the Raja Sahib of Kollengode or Sir Satya Charan Mukherji would perhaps like to say, representing as they do the various Sanatanist groups of the country.

Sir, Mr. Rajagopalachariar goes on to say that they asked to be returned “on no other issue”, that is to say, not on Temple Entry issue, but merely on a political Anglo-phobia issue, an anti-British issue, because, having traded on public feeling, having tried to give it as much racial antipathy as possible in the name of non-violence, in the name of religion itself, because non-violence was sometimes given a religious

[Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.]

bias, having created that atmosphere of distrust in the country, finding that that atmosphere might not help them in the election if they fought it on a bigger, a cleaner and higher issue, namely, the removal of untouchability itself, they side-track the issue, they run away from their conviction :

“They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.”

(Hear, hear.)

Then he, a principal lieutenant of Gandhiji, goes on to say :

“ *if successful at the polls, they cannot believe they will receive the mandate of the electorate on any other questions* ”---

That is to say, they are not receiving the mandate of the electorate on the Temple Entry Bill. This man, who came screaming at our doors, begging us for support—these beggars in the cause of the Congress,—who just begged of us to proceed with this Temple Entry Bill, are not only betraying the cause of the untouchables, but they are betraying the principles of the Mahatma himself, for, we know, that Mahatma's fast was directed toward the uplift of the untouchables by giving them concessions in regard to the Communal Award, which the Congress naturally has hesitated to repudiate, and we, therefore, know that that has a direct bearing on the untouchability question, to approach which, to solve which, the Mahatma, the great Mahatma, wanted to tour the country, but today the Congress, who betrayed him first in the betrayal of the Congress boycott of the Councils, have, by seeking to come to the Councils, further betrayed him with the assistance of his own *samandhi*, Rajagopalachariar, and they say that they are not going to proceed with the untouchability question and the Temple Entry Bill without a mandate from the people !

Sir, where is the difference, I ask, between Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar and *Sriman* Rajagopalachariar ? Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar has always conceded—“ take a mandate from the people and then come and legislate ”. Sir, he is not a coward ; a great Sanatanist himself, he is willing to face the music. On the contrary, these people, who pillory the Sanatanists up and down the country, forgetting that Sanatan Dharma is eternal truth itself, are behaving in a manner which even the Sanatanists will not appreciate, for Sanatan Dharma is eternal truth and the betrayal of truth is worthy only of untruthful people ! Having betrayed many a principle which would lead us to our national goal, having taken up the case of the untouchables only to save their faces, with no conviction behind them, as we now see, the great Congress leaders, with the exception of Mahatma Gandhi, have said, through Rajagopalachariar, the Organizer-in-Chief of the coming elections on behalf of the Congress :

“ It will be open to all Congressmen to have the matter duly considered before it is ever made into an *official Congress Bill*. ”

For this betrayal of the cause of the untouchables, I hope constitutionalists will organize themselves, whether Hindus or Mussalmans. They can agree to differ later on on communal issues, but they will unite and offer a great battle to the Congress and bring that organ of masqueraders down on its knees. Sir, I think here is a betrayal of the cause of the untouchables and the Depressed Classes : and, if I did not believe in this movement before Mahatma Gandhi could take it up or Mr. Rajagopalachariar went from door to door in Delhi, I should not have been here to move this Bill

Sir, I always felt that the father of the Harijan movement was Swami Vivekananda, whose feet I bear on my head. That great prophet of nationalism which Bengal gave to India and the world, in his great speeches, from Colombo to Almora, called upon the Indian people to get rid of this curse of untouchability which is making the nation an untouchable nation. (Hear, hear.) He said, touring in Malabar, what more silly thing could one find than this? What he witnessed in Malabar was that the poor Pariah was not allowed to walk in the streets, but when he changed his name to some hotch-potch Christian name or Muhammadan name, it was all right. What does the Malabar Hindu do? He says: "Don't touch me. I am holy!" The Swami said in another place: "Their religion is the kitchen, their God is the cooking pot!" Sir, Swami Vivekananda was the real founder of the Harijan movement, and Mahatma Gandhi, with his great energy, has come into that movement. Apparently, he finds it difficult to carry the Congress people with him in matters of social reform. Sir, not having sat at the great Mahatma's feet, in matters either of politics or of social reform, and drawing my inspiration first from the teachings of my own religion and the need of social justice and social reform, and secondly from my experience, bitter experience in Malabar, to which I belong, I propose to proceed with this Bill; and, in so doing, I seek, in the first place, a compromise with the Sanatanists. The latter have nowhere said that they were opposed to considering the temple-entry question; they were opposed to the Temple Entry Bill. For instance, I believe that Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar and Raja Vasudeva Raja, who belong to the Madras Presidency, the latter to Malabar itself, would be willing to build temples for the untouchables, for the untouchables have to be kept within the Hindu fold: you cannot drive them out, as you have tried to drive them out all these ages by excluding them from the community. Sir, if, in spite of all this, all the untouchables have not become Musalmans or Christians, it is because the untouchables are better Hindus than many of these so-called Hindus themselves. (Hear, hear.) They have clung to the Hindu religion in spite of this disability; they have clung to the Hindu fold in spite of the treatment that we have offered them. There is a film going round the country called "Chandi Das". That film deals with temple entry and if it has any connection with our revered Law Member, Sir Nripendra Sircar, whose life is a sermon on sacrifice and service to the Hindu cause, I can only say that he and Bengal and his talented son responsible for that film have rendered a great service to the cause of the removal of untouchability. (Applause.) The applause all over the country that this film has got is an index of the fact that the cause of the untouchables has the support of the Hindus.

I know, so far as the circulated opinion is concerned, that there is a sharp cleavage. I know that men like Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar and the Raja Sahib of Kollengode and even Sir Satya Charan Mukherji, who is much younger than they, would like to move with the times, but they are not willing to go as fast as I am willing to go. As for Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen, he naturally relies on the *Smritis* with all the cretations of Manu Dharma Shastras. I admit that he is as devoted to his cause as I am devoted to mine. I will not at all question his sincerity, and I am perfectly certain that he too wants the amelioration of the condition of the untouchables and to get them within the Hindu

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fold. That is an issue on which the Congress people for purposes of political warfare, as is now clearly indicated by their last moment's betrayal, were really trying to divide the Sanatanists from the Sanatanists for the untouchables are part of Sanatana Dharma. After all, what is the Hindu dharma but Sanatana dharma and what are the untouchables but the children of Hinduism? Therefore, we have got to build temples for them. If Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar thinks that the untouchables by entering his temple will pollute his God—I do not think so, because God cannot be polluted,—let him come forward and keep the community of untouchables within the fold and give them a religious uplift, for it is a very unconvincing argument of our friends when they say that the economic uplift will bring in its train the religious uplift and social uplift. Mr. Rajah, who has been economically uplifted, cannot enter the temples of Palghat or Malabar or for that matter Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar's residence or a temple in its neighbourhood. Therefore, what we want is religious uplift and social uplift. I would suggest to the Sanatanists another thing. During the ear festival and similar other ceremonial festivals, whether in Raja Bahadur's domain or in the domain of Raja Sir Vasudeva, the untouchables are permitted to mix with the touchables, the highest Brahmins. If that can be so, why not build temples for them in the neighbourhood of your own temple and thus take the wind from the Mahatma's sails and also arrange a joint ear festival for both the touchables and the untouchables.

How did Buddha attract people to Buddhism? Not by building temples, but by living his great life. But when Buddha was gone, what did the Buddhists do? They built temples all over the country, and if a census had been taken in those days, there would have been no Hindus, at any rate, there would have been no low class Hindus in Buddhist times. All were Buddhists from the Himalayas to Cape Camorin. There were a handful of Brahmins left in the country, but Buddhism became a powerful religion. Its principal attraction was the temple. Buddha himself had repudiated idolatry and temple worship, but the Buddhists, in order to attract people to their fold, built temples. I need not go through the Buddhist history and I need not go through the historic achievement of Buddhism after Buddha's death when the whole country observed that faith until Shankara came to offer battle to it. And how did Shankara offer battle to it? By following the example of Buddha himself and the Buddhists. He tried to revive the priest-craft just as the Buddhists had done. Buddha did condemn priest-craft. Our Vedas have no place for priest-craft. The priests came into existence and the Brahmin priest, by reviving the Sanskrit learning and *Acharas*, banished Buddhism beyond India though Buddhism today prevails among, and is observed by, a larger number of people than Hinduism. But what did Shankara do? While trying to banish Buddhism from India, he had to copy Buddha's followers in the matter of building temples all over the land, attracting the Hindus back to Hinduism. At the same time, he had to accept Buddhism. That is why he preached Advaita. Shankara's Advaita is nothing but Buddha's unity and oneness of mankind. That is the reason why Hinduism has, from time to time, absorbed people, not even belonging to the Hindu fold to itself. If my statement is challenged, I have authorities to quote when I rise to reply. I must not, however, take much of the time. The

great Ramanuja, by his democratic Hindu faith, embraced by his action people who were not always given the place they ought to be given. Not only that, Ramanuja went further and expressed sympathy with the Depressed Classes. He was a great supporter of the Depressed Classes. Then we had Guru Nanak. He went a step further. He wanted not only to abolish untouchability, but to unite the Hindus and the Muhammadans. Sir, I have done. I should not make my speech long. The whole history of Hinduism, through shining scores of centuries, reveals, as by a flash of lightning, that Hinduism is inclusive and not exclusive. (*Voices* : "Go on".)

As my Honourable friends want me to go on, I shall make a reference to some of the opinions that have been circulated to deal with which I was almost in distress, because such voluminous publications have never taken place before. In this connection, I must express my gratitude to Lord Willingdon and his Government and all the Members of the Executive Council (Applause), for it is given to this great Viceroy to ascertain the public opinion on a matter which is very important as the public opinion has shown. I admit that there is a cleavage, but where is the world and where is that Utopia whose angelic denizens never differ among themselves? Did not Martin Luther himself have to face odds? Did not Muhammad the Prophet take up arms in the desert of Arabia against idolatry and was not his religion at first observed by himself and his wife and his dutiful servant, and is not his religion today observed by large myriads all over the world? He was a reformer; he was a Prophet; he was a Messenger from God; he was a Prophet of God. Every reformer in this world has to face odds and has to take the consequence for his faith. The Congress people are not reformers; they have only been humbugging the public. They have not only agitated the public mind, but they have also betrayed the Mahatma who will go down in history as a great Prophet of the Harijans. (Cheers.) Mahatma Gandhi could not give a mandate to these politicians aspiring for loaves and fishes and who are trying to shape their views according to the times. These masqueraders are not even good masqueraders. These masqueraders only want to exploit the public. During the last prison-going pilgrimage, they exploited women to the shame of the Indian traditions and being false to those traditions, he it said. They put women in the forefront of their strife, the most unmanly thing to do, and, in order to secure victory at the polls in the coming elections, they, who were willing to exploit the untouchables until yesterday, finding that the cause is not popular, have dropped them. People who have no convictions deserve to be condemned. Let us take up the cause of the untouchables, all those who are opposed to the Congress join together in a manner which will not exploit the cause of untouchables but build them up, and admit them to the streets and admit them to the Brahmin *agraharams*, because they are not admitted to the *agraharams* in Malabar. I ask, why should they not be admitted in the *agraharams* of the Brahmins? In the Raja of Kollengode's compound, a *Cheruma* or a *Nayadi* will not be admitted, but if that *Cheruma* or the *Nayadi* becomes a Moplah, he is automatically admitted. There is a tradition like that established in my mother country of Malabar. I want that we must keep these people within our own fold and be true to our religion, for are all these untouchables not the children of Hinduism or is Hinduism a great religion or is it a great humbug

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like the Congress politics? I think Hinduism is a great religion, it is not a mean thing to be shuffled through as we like, it does not depend upon the mechanical manipulation of the muscles of the mouth by way of chanting *mantras*. It does not depend on parroting a few words. Hinduism is being and becoming, it is the manifestation of the temple already in man. Hinduism teaches us that there are three stages for the realisation of God. The first is the ritual stage, the temple going stage, the second is the philosophic stage and the third is the yogic stage, the stage of realisation. The untouchables are children, men with a child-mind. If temples are meant for anybody, they are meant for the untouchables. (Hear, hear.) Let us make our temples attractive to the untouchables or build more attractive temples for them and then the Sanatanists need not fight the Congress people, for the Congress people will have to take up some other subject of exploitation and playing to the gallery. Now, the time has come for all of us to stand by the untouchables in our own way.

I must be referring to the opinions received and as we all know, opinions differ, but I am glad to find that even in the Madras Presidency sympathy is expressed by the Judges of the High Court. Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar, a relation of my first cousin who has married his daughter, a very temple-going man, very orthodox, I thought, would have expressed himself harshly on the Temple Entry Bill of mine. He is not uncharitable. He says, "why go on with it now? Why not leave it to the reformed Legislatures?" Therefore, I think, he is a little better than the Congress people. The Congress people say that when their "constituent Assembly" comes into existence, which now exists in the dreamland of Satyamurti and Rajagopalachari, they will then issue an official Congress Bill on Temple Entry. I do not want a constituent Assembly to wreck constitutions, I want a constitution which I am getting, however imperfect it may be, however unsatisfactory it may be, and I am prepared to build a palace of hope for my country on that constitution. Until the day when their "constituent Assembly" comes, I am not going to wait to build a palace of unity in which the touchables and the untouchables can live, and here, I say, the Sanatanists must strengthen my hands and if the Government will agree they must give us a committee to work out a scheme for building temples for the untouchables. I do not want a revenue-committee, I do not want a roving committee, collecting opinions in the country, because the collected opinions are good enough. If the Sanatanists and the Government—we the reformers, if need be, are willing to stand aside—can work out some policy by which they will be able to build temples for the untouchables and in other ways bring about their uplift, at any rate in future, the Congress people will not be able to treat these uneducated people as pawns in their political game. So far as matters of religion and social reform are concerned, it becomes necessary for us to take great caution of seeing that we all combine against our enemies, because the Congressmen are the common enemies of India and of all noble causes in this country, we must see that we all combine against our enemies for the goodness not only of the touchables but for the greatness of the untouchables. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, I was referring to the opinion of Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar, then a Judge of the High Court. He has, I believe, gone back to my

village. Incidentally I may say that he lives in the house which used to belong to my father and in which great *pūjas* used to be celebrated and Brahmins used to be fed month after month, and, therefore, it has all the hallowed atmosphere of Sanatanists.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : And you, the faithful son of that great man, you are now doing the very thing which he will be afraid to do and which he will never be willing to do. (Laughter.)

• **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** : My Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, is very quick in thinking, but not quite careful in retort. My father, I know better and that great man known to the village, known to the district, he had realised God. He always felt the presence of Sri Ram for the last 40 years before I was born. That man about whom I found in the *Roy's Weekly* by one who knew him before I was born, a three column reference to his religious idealism and practice, that man had realised long before his death that the temple of God was within him. Living in the neighbourhood of a great temple for a long time, he never went into that temple for many years. And, he said, that he was in communion with the deity in the temple not for purposes mundane. He said that he had felt the presence of God and we had evidence of it before his death as much as in his life-time. He did not, I must say, speak one word against my duty to my community and my country even though this Temple Entry Bill has been before us for the last two years. I did not hurry to take advantage of his passing away to introduce this Bill. Ten years ago, there was a great temple *satyagraha* campaign in Travancore State. One of my prominent friends, a Christian and a Barrister, had led that campaign and gone to prison. I was then in Allahabad and I announced my departure for Vykom to study the situation on the spot, not necessarily to take part in *satyagraha*. And when I arrived there I found my father also there. He was acting at that time, not as the Raja Bahadur would perhaps act because the Raja Bahadur has more fervour for ritualism, but at the same time he shared the opinion of Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar. He said to me, "Not only no *satyagraha* for you, you must go away from here". I said, "I have a right to persuade my opponents, I have a right to move my friends". He said, "Make a speech, get into a boat and clear out". I made a speech, got into a boat and cleared out. (Laughter.) Eight years after, when he had gone in to further meditation and *tapasya*, when I met him in Palghat, when crowds of Brahmins came to him to appeal to him to reason with me, he left them to discuss with me, and I told my Brahmin friends : "If my religious arguments will not appeal to you, at least my political arguments must appeal to you. You know, the Brahmins have been finished by the non-Brahmins. You know if you walk from one end of the Palghat *agraharam* to the other, you find on the *pial* of every Brahmin house at least a couple of graduates unemployed and unemployable, because the fiat has gone forth that the non-Brahmins must have preference in Madras". There is a non-Brahmin Government there. And I said, "Though there is not much difference between Brahmins and caste non-Brahmins, these non-Brahmins pretend that the untouchables are a part of them, that the untouchables are a part of their non-Brahmin movement, the Justice movement as they call it. But they are much worse than Brahmins in doing

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injustice to the untouchables. These temples are built by most of these non-Brahmin wealthy men and let us put the non-Brahmins on their trial. Let the non-Brahmin who is less efficient than the Brahmin, let the non-Brahmin, who on communal grounds has usurped jobs and deprived the Brahmins, hand them over on the same communal grounds of inefficiency to the untouchables". That is what I told the Brahmins and the Brahmins clapped their hands. They were very pleased. I said, "I am not your enemy. I want the boomerang of non-Brahminism to recoil on the non-Brahmins themselves". And then one class of people were satisfied that I, a Brahmin, had a patriotic Brahmin purpose in taking up the cause of the untouchables by carrying the non-Brahmin movement to its logical conclusion of either complete justice or complete inefficiency. And then I said that as a Hindu I had another object. I did not play upon the weakness of the reformer saying that many an untouchable is being converted every week in Ponnani taluk. I did not play upon that. I played upon this fact : if Hinduism has no place for the untouchables, I would ask them to embrace Islam. A man who gets better treatment in some other religion must go to it and must leave his religion. It is because I want to make Hinduism a habitable home for the untouchable that I have taken up this. I told them another thing and that is my whole case. I said, "You know the Moplah riots, you know the ghastly riots that have taken place from time to time. But the Moplahs are mainly drawn from the class of untouchables. They do not have the culture of the Mussalmans of Northern India, but they have better physique and greater courage". And, I said, "If all the untouchables become Moplahs what will happen to you? Already there are riots and the untouchable is not permitted to come to your *agraharam*. A Moplah can enter it, an untouchable cannot; and if all these untouchables become Moplahs, there will only be two communities in Malabar, the Nairs and the Brahmins". The Raja of Kollengode is a Kshatriya but one swallow cannot make a summer. Kshatriyas as a class are fast disappearing from India. And this argument also appealed to them, and I said, "Why not build temples for them". They who were once admirers of Gandhi and used to applaud Rajagopalachari are no longer with them. I told them that God is greater than Gandhi, and true politics and our duty to the community are greater than the Congress planks and platform. They agreed. And, I said, therefore, that from the non-Brahmin point of view, from the point of view of keeping the community together, and also from the point of view of holding aloft the new banner under which Saematisms, both touchables and untouchables, can join, they should go with me. I said, "I am not a dangerous man, the future will show it".

Sir, I was referring to Justice Anantakrishna Aiyar, but the interruption of Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar naturally necessitated an explanation. I have given that explanation with the respect that is due to the Raja Bahadur, and, if, in the course of my argument, I happened to use any sarcasm, which I believe I have not used, the Raja Bahadur deserves my apology. Sir, here is from Chittoor, a very orthodox Brahmin, Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar, whose views we find at page 347, Paper No. V, opinions Nos. 12-15 :

"As I said in connection with the Sarda Bill, time has been working changes (not inappreciable) in case of social and religious matters here; and if left to time

the intended result would surely follow, without at the same time creating any friction among the people concerned."

Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah (Madras : Landholders) : That is not supporting your Bill.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I never said that Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar was supporting my Bill. I said that his view is better than the view of the Congress. He is opposed to my Bill, but at the same time, though afraid of creating friction,—I personally believe in creating friction and fuss, because John Bull does not yield without making some fuss—without creating friction, he wants the "*intended result*" "*surely*" "to follow". If that is not supporting the Temple Entry Bill, that is accepting the spirit thereof. He is asking for a little more time which certainly I am willing to grant. When I agreed to circulation, I knew that public opinion will have to be sounded on this matter. I acknowledge there is a great deal of opposition and a handful of reformers must not resort to *satyagraha*, but we have a right at the same time to say that the opinion on our side is much larger than the circulated opinion represents. I have a right to say that young men and middle aged men of 40 are all on the side of the Temple Entry Bill, but they do not, I admit, go to the temple : they are modernists : I admit the majority of the temple goers are against this Bill, and that is why I say that I do not want to force the untouchable into the temple over the corpses of the temple-goer : I do not even want a future *satyagraha* movement to break open the temple doors. I have a right to challenge Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar and other people, who say they are friends of the untouchables, to come into the open instead of merely indulging in rhetoric, instead of merely abusing Gandhi, to prove that they can take the cause of the untouchables in their hands. Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar is prepared that this measure should be taken up in the new reformed Legislatures : he says :

"The present is not the occasion for passing such legislative measures, the reformed Legislatures—in sight—being apparently the more appropriate bodies to deal with such matters."

If I may respectfully submit to my Sanatanist friend, the Raja of

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Kollengode, this is not opposition to the Temple Entry Bill : it is only an advice—do not be a young man in a hurry : do not pass it this Session. The Government and the Opposition have not decided to pass it this Session. He says, "Wait for the reformed Legislatures", and I hope that the Government of India will change their attitude and release provincial councils during the autonomous era from political or bureaucratic bondage. In the present case there has been a bondage because the Government of India absolutely declined our very humble but persistent request that this Temple Entry Bill should be introduced in the Madras Council. It is not we who made it an all-India question. It is they, and if I quoted Madras opinion it is because this is a live issue in Madras : the Government were not prepared to throw the non-Brahmins to the wolves, because the non-Brahmin movement would have been split from brow to chin on the question of temple entry and untouchability. Dr. Subbarayan, himself a great non-Brahmin champion, though not a member of the Justice Party, a champion of the untouchables and the non-Brahmins alike, was the sponsor of this Bill in the Madras Council. He was not a Congress

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man, he was an ex-Minister : the Government of India made it impossible for us to introduce this Bill in the Madras Council. We did not want to create difficulties for my friend, Pandit Sen, from Bengal ; we do not want to embarrass Sir Satya Charan Mukherjee ; we do not want to embarrass any one outside Madras : we believe in this as a provincial measure and when autonomy comes into existence I hope that the Honourable the Home Member will advise the Government of India to accept Sir C. V. Anantakrishna Aiyar's advice.

I have other supporters in this matter. I have, for instance, Justice Madhavan Nair, a distinguished member of the Nair community from Malabar, a nephew of the late Sir C. Sankaran Nair whose death we have all deeply felt.....

Mr. K. P. Thampan (West Coast and Nilgiris : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : A Madras non-Brahmin !

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Yes ; but non-Brahmins like other honourable men have fallen out on this issue. (Laughter.) I know Mr. Thampan belongs to the same caste as Justice Madhavan Nair. I know in the Tamil country also opinion is divided. I do not mind Mr. Thampan expressing an opposite opinion ; but I wish that he will come back to this Assembly by defeating the Congress (Laughter) and, if I happen to be in Malabar, I propose to make a few speeches for Mr. Thampan ; notwithstanding the fact that he is opposed to the Temple Entry Bill, I am perfectly certain that he belongs to that class of progressives in Malabar who want to wipe out untouchability. Like so many progressive men in Malabar, I believe Mr. Thampan is not for the continuance of the present form in which untouchability is observed. On the temple entry question, I do not believe he will be so ungenerous as to refuse the building of temples for the untouchables as close as possible to our own temples, so that if, in some future age, the Congress again takes up temple-entry *satyagraha*, we Brahmins can go into the temples of the untouchables and dish the *satyagrahis*. As I was saying, Justice Madhavan Nair is in favour of the principle of the Bill : he says :

" I am in favour of the principle of the Bill. This legislation is permissive in character. Having regard to the conditions prevailing in this country, I doubt very much whether any improvement in social conditions worth having can be introduced without legislation. Government may make rules for preventing riots if riots are apprehended."

In the last sentence I am afraid he has anticipated the argument of our talented Home Member, Sir Henry Craik. I attach a great deal of importance to the opinion of Justice Madhavan Nair : he comes from a very well-known *tharavad* in Malabar ; he comes from Malabar where untouchability obtains in its worst form ; he is a deeply religious man and he is not one who rushes to conclusions ; he thinks carefully ; he has a perfect judicial temperament, the perfect mind that a judge should have ; and after weighing the *pros* and *cons* of things and examining the conditions in Malabar he has expressed this opinion. There are other opinions. I find the Honourable the Home Member ready to take part in the debate, and, therefore, let me conclude with these words.

The other day I made a rather disappointing remark when the Temple Entry Bill was not reached : I thought that it would not be reached this Session. I expressed my protest in a short observation on the floor of this

House. Seeing that I was seething, in his great generosity the Honourable the Law Member walked up to me and I met him half-way : my overburdened heart gave way ; at that time I did not understand that behind me was standing on the floor of this House—not even in the lobby—a journalistic eavesdropper belonging to the Associated Press (Laughter) ; and I now find that he has palmed off a remark, a confidential remark, in a crude manner, to one of the Calcutta Congress dailies, using me as a stick to beat Sir Nripendra Sircar. I cannot claim the same enthusiasm for my community which Sir Nripendra has served for a longer period and at greater sacrifice ; and if this ungentlemanly trick of a newspaper eavesdropper has resulted in a misleading statement and if it has done any harm or misled the public, I am here humbly to apologise to Sir Nripendra Sircar : I apologise for the misrepresentation of an eavesdropper—a curious form of apology ; but I cannot help deeply feeling that journalists should be developing a lack of restraint and attacking responsible Members of the Government and mis-reporting or reporting one sentence in a conversation for the benefit of Congress hooligans who ask for our head on a charger.....

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : You were a journalist once !

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Mr. Das says I was a journalist once : I am a journalist now : once a journalist always a journalist ; but journalists can be gentlemen.....

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : But once a Swarajist not always a Swarajist ?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Not at all, for Swaraj appears on the horizon ; I cannot be a Swarajist if Swaraj is attained. I consider the White Paper scheme of provincial autonomy gives Swaraj in the provincial sense. (*Cries of "No, no."*) Opinions may differ, but that is my view. I am not satisfied with the scheme at the Centre, and, therefore, I say that the autonomous provinces of the future must have the right of legislating on the Temple Entry Bill. I do not want that this should be in the Central Legislature at all, I do not want that the Government of India should be a Himalayan obstacle in the way of provincial autonomy and in the way of autonomous Provincial Governments. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to remove the disabilities of the so-called Depressed Classes in regard to entry into Hindu temples be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar, the Honourable Sir Henry Craik, Bhai Parmanand, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi, Rao Bahadur P. L. Patil and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah : Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, for referring this Bill to Select Committee. I am convinced that a more dangerous and obnoxious Bill than this Temple Entry Bill has never before been brought in any Council and that it deserves a summary rejection. Government have given wide publicity to the Bill and invited opinions from interested people and also from those who were in a position to give valuable and disinterested opinion on the matter. The supporters of the Bill, the Congress organization and also Mr. Gandhi with all his influence carried a propaganda from one

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end of the land to the other in favour of the Bill. In spite of all this, the reformers have not been able to make any impression on the people in support of the Bill. On the other hand, it has caused acute resentment in the country and opened the eyes of the peace-loving, loyal and law-abiding Sanatanists and others to the dangers to which they are exposed from these so-called reformers. It has awakened thousands of people from their slumber and has spurred them to organise themselves in such a way as was never done by them before. An indirect good that the introduction of the Bill and the neutral attitude that the Government have taken so far in regard to it has been that a very large section of our people have realised how unsafe and dangerous it is to pin their faith in the justice of these reformers of the congress persuasion to protect their material, social and religious rights and how much we have to rely on ourselves to safeguard them. The opinions received by Government from over a hundred thousand individuals, numerous associations, religious heads and Madhathipathies, and last but not least, Provincial Governments are very clear and emphatic and allow of no doubt as to the course this Assembly and the Government should take in dealing with this Bill. It deserves nothing but summary rejection. I was of opinion that the Governor General should not have given permission even to introduce this Bill, but subsequent events have proved that it was as well that permission was given and opinions were taken from a large number of people from all Provinces which go to show the impracticability and dangerous character of the measure. It is impossible for me, in the short time available, to quote individual opinions of associations or the valuable and learned opinions of the great many Madhathipathies. They are all contained in the voluminous volumes of printed opinions, covering hundreds of pages, that have been supplied to Honourable Members. It would, however, be profitable if I quote a few extracts from the opinions received from various Provincial Governments in India based on their inquiry and information.

The Madras Government says :

"In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council the Bill seeks to make a far-reaching innovation in the matter of Temple worship and is complicated by the fact that law and order are involved as there is every likelihood of breaches of peace and serious faction in villages, or of the temples being abandoned by the caste Hindus. He considers that a matter of this kind should be left to public opinion in the country and that with the growth of the right type of education, the problem will solve itself."

The opinion of the Government of Bombay is put in the following terms :

"It will be seen that the weight of opinion is against the provisions of the Bill. Official opinion is mostly opposed to the Bill, though some officers have advocated an attitude of neutrality on the part of Government. As for non-official opinion, orthodox Hindus who preponderate outside big towns or cities are almost unanimously against the Bill. The reformers and others who claim to speak on behalf of the depressed classes mostly support the Bill, but they are in a very small minority as compared with the orthodox Hindus."

The opinion of the Bengal Government is as follows :

"The Governor in Council is of opinion that the Bill should not be supported by Government for the reason that it aims at no less than the variation, in accordance with popular local choice, of the terms of endowment trusts and in this sense furthers the objects of communism. Moreover, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, it is difficult to justify the settlement of the religious matters by any system of local referendum."

The Government of the United Provinces are of the following opinion :

"Speaking generally it may be said that many educated persons and religious reformers have expressed their opinion in favour of the Bill, whilst the orthodox Hindus who form the majority of that community are opposed to its terms. The association of the Depressed Classes in Kumaon, the Doms or Shilpkars, which has been showing activity in regard to the social uplift of its members for some time, looks upon the whole proposal as a political manoeuvre to be regarded with distrust and suspicion. Official opinion tends to emphasise the following important arguments against the general policy and provisions of the Bill.

(i) If any serious attempt were made to give practical effect to the provisions of this Bill, it would almost certainly cause disturbances and breaches of the peace.

(ii) The Bill is of such far-reaching importance that it is almost undesirable that it should be dealt with by a legislative body in its last Session."

The Government of the Punjab says :

"The Punjab Government are opposed to legislation which interferes with religious and social customs, especially when, as in this case, it cannot fail to cause grave offence to, and discontent amongst, those whose beliefs it offends and is fraught with danger to the public peace, first, owing to the method of determination proposed and secondly, owing to the disputes which are certain to arise if members of the Depressed Classes attempt to enter particular temples."

Then the Government of Bihar and Orissa give their opinion as follows :

"The opinions received indicate that officials, Indians as well as Europeans, are generally against the Bill. Because they consider that legislation is the wrong way of solving the problem. As regards the opinion of the Local Government, I am to say that one member of the Government recommends that Government should remain neutral and leave the Bill to the vote of the Non-Official Members of the Legislative Assembly ; the others are opposed to the Bill. So far as the Local Government are aware, the Depressed Classes in Bihar have no desire that the temples should be thrown open to them. The agitation for temple entry is at the bottom of a political move, and is a bid for the support of the Harijan vote at the next elections. If the Bill were passed into law, its application would produce violent discord within the Hindu community which would almost inevitably lead to rioting and bloodshed."

The Government of Assam says :

"Public opinion in its broadest sense appears to be opposed to the Bill on the ground that the subject is not a fit subject for legislation. The Governor in Council is not in favour of forcing the pace through paper legislation whose only result would probably be an exacerbation of feeling between the upper and exterior castes in the Hindu fold."

Coming to the Central Provinces, the Government says :

"The Bill was widely circulated and in all 800 opinions have been received. Of that number, 540 are opposed to and only 260 are in favour of the Bill. Even the Depressed Classes do not appear to be enamoured of it. In these circumstances the Government finds it impossible to lend its support to it."

As for the North-West Frontier Provinces, the Government of that Province says thus :

"As will be seen, the consensus of opinion, received from Hindu individuals and associations, is opposed to the Bill. I am to say that the Governor in Council, beyond observing that it does not appear to be necessary to inflict the proposed legislation on an unwilling majority of Hindus in this Province, feels that he can offer no useful opinion on the merits of the question."

The Agent to the Governor General and the Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan says :

"The bulk of the Panchayats, who represent the large majority of Hindus in Baluchistan are against it. The view of the Honourable Norman Oater and that of such of the Political Agents as have expressed a personal opinion is that the Bill is highly controversial."

[Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah.]

The Chief Commissioner of Delhi says :

"As was to be expected, there is a definite and wide difference of opinion between orthodox leaders and organizations and the reformers. It will create a constant source of friction and future trouble between the supporters of the principle of temple-entry and their opponents. It must not be forgotten that the orthodox are likely to resist what they consider an unwarranted interference in their religious beliefs with the utmost determination."

The Government of Burma, the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara and the Chief Commissioner of Coorg also oppose the Bill after taking note of the public opinion in their Provinces.

From these short extracts I have quoted, it will be abundantly clear that there is not a single Provincial Government or responsible officer of Government that supports this piece of mischievous legislation, but, on the other hand, they have emphatically opposed the Bill. We have, however, not yet been able to find out what the opinion of the Government of India is in regard to this burning question. It is very important that the country should know it. The Government cannot afford to be an unconcerned spectator of a mischievous and dangerous game. The people will misunderstand their silence and lose all their confidence in the Government. Already the present uncertainty of the Government of India's attitude has created distrust in Government in the minds of a large number of people and it is undermining their loyalty and goodwill towards them. They think that Government are placating the Congress people who are really at the bottom of this agitation and betraying the trust that the loyalists have placed in them. This will have very far reaching effects and I would earnestly appeal to Government to disclose their attitude towards this Bill in clear and unmistakable terms. I would remind the Government that, if they remain as passive onlookers or adopt a policy of neutrality, they will lose all their adherents in this country.

After the warning that all the Provincial Governments without exception have given, namely, that the Bill, if it were to become an Act, will lead to serious disturbances of peace, law and order, I do not think that the Government of India can possibly adopt any other attitude than one of stern opposition to the Bill which I trust they will do. I further hope that the present Home Member's term of office, which has only just begun, will be characterised at the end of it as one of peace, prosperity and contentment and not one of religious persecution, hatred and murderous attacks all over the country. I would remind him of the Great Indian Mutiny and the causes that led to it, which will all pale into insignificance when you consider what is likely to happen if firm-rooted and greatly valued religious beliefs are rudely attacked and religious susceptibilities are wounded. May I also remind the Home Member and the other Members of the Government of India of the Great Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria of revered memory, which is still cherished and will ever be cherished with gratitude by the Indian people, and that, as servants of His Majesty, they are bound to carry out the injunctions contained in that document to the very letter and spirit ?

Finally, Sir, let me also say a word to my Honourable friend, the Mover. If he had any doubt in the matter of public opinion regarding his Bill, it must have been thoroughly dispelled by now after seeing

the various opinions now made available to him as well as to us. I admire his solicitude for the uplift of the Harijan or Depressed Classes, with which we have all every sympathy. If he had confined himself to measures leading to their material prosperity or even to their social and religious uplift on right lines without coming into conflict with what we consider sacred we should have supported him in every way. But, unfortunately, he has gone the wrong way about and overshot his mark and has complicated matters by introducing things seriously affecting our religious practices to which we can never agree. Instead of persisting obstinately in this wild-goose chase, it would be creditable if he, at least, now realises the seriousness of the situation, owns his mistake and withdraws his Bill. Admitting one's mistake is in no way to be deprecated but will command the appreciation of all right thinking people. If, however, he does not choose to do so, I hope every Member of this House will vote against his motion to whatever community he may belong. This is not the place to discuss religious matters, nor is it proper for a mixed body, such as we are, belonging to various religions, to discuss questions affecting one religion.

With these words, I oppose the motion before the House. (Cheers.)

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Mr. President, the substance of the Bill which is now before the House has full sympathy of every Mussalman all over the world. As Mussalmans, we must sympathise with the object which the Bills aims at. Islam does not recognise untouchability. There is no bar for any Mussalman, having any status in his life, entering our mosques, the Houses of God. In fact, God will not be worthy of being worshipped if His House is polluted by the entry of any human being or any creation of that God Himself. Sir, Islam does not recognise priesthood. There is no priesthood in Islam, is the saying of our Holy Prophet. Not only does Islam recognise that all Mussalmans have an equal status in society, but even non-Mussalmans were not forbidden from entering the mosque of the Holy Prophet himself. We know that some non-Mussalmans came as guests of our Holy Prophet at Medina and they were allowed to stay in the mosque of the Holy Prophet as his own guests, and the next morning, when they were leaving the mosque, some of them had polluted the mosque and there was a great resentment among the Mussalmans, but the Holy Prophet said, "No. Don't feel sorry. They were my guests, and I will clean the mosque with my own hands." Such is the toleration of Islam, and this is the way in which Islam believes in giving equal status to every mankind.

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Are we going to be governed by Islamic law from today ?

Sir Muhammad Yakub : My Honourable friend need not have been so over-zealous. I do not want anybody to observe any law if he does not believe in it. In fact, if a religion imposes such disabilities upon people of the same persuasion then I shall not wonder if the untouchables themselves enter into the universal fraternity of Islam which would immediately give them equal status with the highest among the Mussalmans. And here I invite all the untouchables, from the floor of this House I extend an invitation to them and I ask them to come into the universal fraternity of Islam in which, without passing any Bill like the one which has been introduced by my Honourable friend over there, they will have no disabilities as regards entering any place of worship or

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mosque. But, Sir, although my sympathy is whole-heartedly with my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, whom I wish to congratulate upon the great speech which he has delivered this morning, whom I wish to congratulate on the toleration which he has shown, the breadth of vision which he has exhibited and the statesmanlike view which he has taken of the matter,—if there were men like Mr. Ranga Iyer, having such breadth of vision, I think the cleavage between the two communities, which is growing wider and wider every day, would have been bridged by this time. Sir, I wish also to congratulate him upon the way in which he has exposed the Congress. While all my sympathy and my moral support is with Mr. Ranga Iyer, I am sorry that my vote in the lobby cannot go with him, because my own idea is, as my Honourable friend, the Raja of Kollengode, has said, that in a mixed House like this it would be a very dangerous thing to pass legislation upon matters touching religion or religious rites of any community in this country. As I said on the occasion when the Sarda Bill was before the House, I want to reiterate the same feelings again on this occasion, and would like to say that it would not be right and it would not be safe for the British Government to support or to make legislation upon any subject touching the religion of any community, whether Hindus, Mussulmans, Christians or Parsis, in this country, without the unanimous consent of the community concerned, and as I find that there is an overwhelming majority of the Hindus who, whether rightly or wrongly, are opposed to this Bill, I do not think it would be right for the Government to be a party for making a legislation in a matter like this. With these remarks, I resume my seat.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : (The Honourable Member spoke in the vernacular.)

(While Mr. Gunjal was speaking in the vernacular.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I am quite willing to answer my Honourable friend's question as to whether I have ever given a single pice to a temple. Sir, a temple in Chittoor, my village, was built by my great grand-father.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non Muhammadan Urban) : He did not say that. What he said was—have you ever given a torn shirt to an untouchable ? (Laughter.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I may not have given a torn shirt to an untouchable, but when I joined the non-co-operation movement, I did give away foreign suits to untouchables.

Mr. B. Das : You gave untouchable suits to untouchables. (Laughter.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I gave away *swadeshi* suits made in foreign style.

(Mr. Gunjal continues in the vernacular.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : On a point of order, Sir. Will I be entitled to answer in Malayalam ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : If the Honourable Member declares that he does not know sufficient English.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : How, Sir, am I to know what is parliamentary or unparliamentary in what my friend has been saying? I believe the Honourable the President is not able to follow a word of what he has been saying, and I believe the Honourable Member is indulging in statements which, as I understand, are not parliamentary. As we are not in a position to judge, may I suggest that for a moment you, Sir, temporarily vacate the Chair in favour of one who understands the language, like Dr. DeSouza or Sir Cowasji Jehangir. (Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair expects the Leader of the House will draw the attention of the Chair when there is anything said which is unparliamentary. (Applause.)

(Mr. Gunjal goes on in the vernacular.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : May I ask my Honourable friend whether Tilak was not in favour of building temples for untouchables and whether my Honourable friend, Mr. Gunjal, himself is not in favour of building temples for untouchables?

(Mr. Gunjal goes on in the vernacular.)

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab : Sikh) : The Honourable Member declared just now that he could not understand Mahrathi and still he is putting questions to the speaker.

(Mr. Gunjal goes on in the vernacular.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : My answer is simply this : Tilak said that Swaraj was his birthright. He believed in adult franchise and he did not believe in excluding the untouchables. If there is adult franchise, Tilak would not have prevented the cause of untouchables being taken up.

(Mr. Gunjal goes on in the vernacular.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : But Tilak's Gita Rahasya is a sermon on, and interpretation of, the fact that the temple of God is within you and that God in His Greatness cannot be polluted by the approach of the untouchable.

(Mr. Gunjal goes on in the vernacular.)

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member) : Sir, my intervention at this comparatively early stage of this debate is not due to any desire to shorten the discussion or to deprive other Honourable Members of the opportunity of stating their views. It is due to the fact that Government has decided that it is important that its attitude towards this measure should be made public at an early stage in the debate. I may say that I have received many requests from various quarters of the House to this effect, and to those requests I have naturally given the consideration which they deserve. One such request was contained in the very lucid

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and moderate speech delivered this morning by my friend, the Raja of Kollengode. But apart altogether from such requests, I think it is essential to remove any impression that Government is hesitating or uncertain in its attitude or that it is assuming that attitude which is colloquially described as sitting on the fence. On a question of such great importance as that now under consideration, regarding which such keen and indeed, such passionate interest has been aroused throughout the length and breadth of the country, it is clearly desirable that there should be no doubt or uncertainty about the position of Government, and I trust that before I sit down, I shall have succeeded in stating that position in completely unambiguous terms. The House will, I hope, bear with me patiently if my exposition of the position of the Government and the reasons for the position takes some little time. I think all Honourable Members will admit that, on an issue which has been so widely discussed in the country, the position of Government must be stated fully and that the reasons for it must be explained in detail even if that explanation occupies some time.

Before I come to my main theme, I must digress for one moment to refer to the statement issued by the Honourable the Mover of this Bill to the newspapers on the 16th August. The Honourable Member has explained that that statement was the result of an indiscretion by a gentleman whom he described as a "journalistic eavesdropper". Nevertheless, I think I am entitled to put in a word of personal explanation.....

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : If I may interrupt the Honourable Member : probably he has not understood me correctly. The statement that I issued through the United Press was a statement issued over my signature ; but as soon as the House rose that day and I was disappointed that my Bill was not reached, I had a private conversation on the floor of the House with Sir Nripendra Sircar, and at that time neither he nor I noticed that there was a journalistic eavesdropper standing close by, and he reported that conversation to the Press unauthorised—and only to the Calcutta newspapers—using me as a stick to beat Sir Nripendra Sircar : it was a heart to heart conversation between two Members of the House and the journalist concerned had no business to palm that thing off or inspire some other man to make that statement as the special correspondent of a Calcutta congress daily.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I quite understand my Honourable friend's position ; but the statement to which I was referring was the one issued over his signature : I have it here : it was published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 19th of this month. It contains a suggestion, possibly nothing stronger than a suggestion, that there had been some arrangement between myself and my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, to prolong the discussion on the Minor Girls Protection Bill in order that my Honourable friend should not have an opportunity of moving the Bill we are discussing today. I can assure my Honourable friend that he is under a complete misconception, and, I am sure, my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, will support me in saying that there was no arrangement of any kind between himself and me.....

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : In view of the Honourable the Home Member's statement, I express my regret both to the Honourable the Home Member and to the Leader of my Party for the misapprehension.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am indebted to my Honourable friend. Now, to return to the Bill now under discussion, it will be within the recollection of the House that in a statement issued early in 1933, His Excellency the Governor General made it clear that the grant of sanction to the introduction of this Bill did not in any way commit Government to the acceptance or support of the principles contained in it, and that the Government of India retained a free hand to take, at all later stages, such action in regard to this measure as might, on a full consideration of the circumstances, appear necessary. This position of Government, that they were entirely free to take such attitude in regard to this matter as might appear necessary, was reiterated when the motion for the circulation of the Bill was debated in this House on the 24th of August last year. Since that date, the Bill has been circulated—very widely circulated—and an enormous mass of opinions has been received and reduced to print. These opinions emanate from all Local Governments, from a large body of individual officials, from a large body of private persons and a very large number of bodies and associations interested in this question. As Honourable Members will no doubt have noticed, they cover very nearly 800 pages of print. I have no doubt that many Honourable Members, possibly with more leisure than myself, have been able to make a meticulous and exhaustive study of those opinions. I cannot claim, to be perfectly frank, that my study has been entirely exhaustive, but I have done my best, in the time at my disposal, to make myself acquainted with all the more important opinions on the Bill. After that study, I claim—and, I think, the House will admit the justice of this claim—that no impartial person reading through all these opinions can come to any conclusion except that the overwhelming majority of the interests affected are strongly opposed to this Bill. The Honourable the Mover of this Bill himself admitted that there was considerable cleavage of opinion. That, I think, is a very mild way of putting it. The opposition is not confined to persons who may be described as the representatives of orthodoxy or as the more old-fashioned adherents of the Hindu faith. Far from it. Practically all the major Local Governments, indeed, I think all Local Governments without exception, are unanimous in their condemnation of the measure and of course those Governments are not mainly or entirely composed of orthodox Hindus. Apart from this, in the Province of Bengal alone, I notice that such bodies as the Bar Associations or the Bar Libraries of Alipore, Midnapore and other towns, the British India Association—all condemn the Bill. And those bodies are certainly not composed either entirely or even mainly of orthodox Hindus. Further, Sir, it is clear from the opinions received that the Depressed Classes themselves, in whose interests this measure is ostensibly framed, are by no means enamoured of it. Many of them indeed are definitely, quite definitely, opposed to it, and the best, I think, that can be said of those who are not opposed to it, is that they are lukewarm in their support. I shall revert to this point later. At the moment, I desire to reiterate my point that the great bulk of the opinions received strongly condemn the Bill. Indeed, such support, as it has received, is practically confined to a comparatively small class of what I may call the *intelligentsia* mainly resident in towns, a class which my friend, the Mover, has himself admitted is in the main not a temple-going class at all. And in addition to that section of the *intelligentsia*, the support is confined to a political party which is clearly not unconscious of the possible tactical advantage it may derive from the passage of the Bill, although, I do not of course for the moment desire to throw any doubt on the sincerity of that party's intention towards those people whom this measure is designed to benefit.

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Now, Sir, the conclusion forced on the Government, after a careful study of the opinions received, and after the most anxious consideration of all aspects of the question, is, that it is their clear duty, as indeed it would be the duty of any Government charged with responsibility for the protection of the lives and rights of its citizens, to oppose this Bill.

Before I go in detail into the reasons that have driven Government to this conclusion, I would like to remove two possible sources of misconception as to our attitude. Sir, in the first place, I wish to make it clear beyond all shadow of doubt, that Government are not opposed to any genuine and well-thought-out measure of reform which would have the effect of removing the age-old social or other disabilities from which certain classes suffer, disabilities which, I think, are now universally condemned by the general verdict of civilization and which may indeed be described as a grave reproach on the social or religious system which imposes them. If the decision of Government to oppose this Bill is going to be misrepresented as evidence of Government's indifference to the claims of the Depressed Classes, I need only point to what Government has done in recent years for the betterment of those classes. In Madras, where the problem of social, religious and economic disabilities is, I suppose, more acute than elsewhere, a special department is formed in the Governorship of His Excellency the present Viceroy to protect the interests of those classes, and large sums of money have been spent out of public funds by his Government and by subsequent Governments in improving their economic position by such measures as the acquisition of land for houses and cultivation, by the provision of wells and water supplies, and by the development of a special form of co-operative society. Other Local Governments—I think I can truly say all Local Governments—have paid special attention to the improvement of educational facilities for these classes, partly by supplementing the work done by private societies and agencies, and partly by securing for the children of the Depressed Classes free entry on equal terms with other children into all public institutions. This encouragement is given by way of remission of fees, by the provision of scholarships and so on. In Bombay, for example, a Committee was appointed by Government to examine the position of the Depressed Classes and aboriginal tribes, and the Local Government have publicly announced the action they have taken and the action they propose to take on the Report of that Committee, in order to secure to these people the right of access to all wells, schools, hospitals, dispensaries and other institutions maintained by public funds. In the Central Provinces, an Act has recently been passed laying down that all public places vested in or owned by or maintained by either the Local Government or the local authorities shall not be closed to the use of any person by reason of his caste or creed. Representatives of the Depressed Classes are now, I think, members of all Provincial Legislatures, and both the Government of India and His Majesty's Government have given ample proof of their recognition of the importance of securing adequate representation in the Legislatures of those classes, both in the Provincial Legislatures and in the Central Legislature. It is hardly necessary for me to remind the House of the recent discussions on that point or of the provisions that have been made for the special representation of the Depressed Classes under the Reforms scheme, both in the Central and in Provincial Legislatures. That provision as originally laid down in the Communal

Award has of course been greatly increased as the result of the Poona Pact.

In short, Sir, so far as any action of Government can secure improvement, I think it can fairly be claimed that progress has been rapid during the last few years, and with the increased opportunities that are likely to be given to members of the Depressed Classes themselves in the new constitution, I think I am justified in expressing the hope that progress will be even more rapid in the next few years. That, Sir, is one misconception, but I hope I have been able to remove it.

The second misconception to which I want to refer, and which I am anxious to dissipate, is that the attitude of the opposition to this Bill on the part of the Government which I have announced is dictated by a desire to secure some form of tactical advantage. Critics who are always ready to read into the actions of Government some tortuous motive may argue that we are opposing this Bill because it represents the views of a certain political party, or at any rate of a section of a certain political party, which is generally in opposition to Government, or because the principle of religious and social equality which the Bill enshrines has been for some time past the main pre-occupation of a leader who has been in the past a leader of many forms of opposition to Government. Sir, I should like to say that nothing can be farther from the truth than any such argument. In the first place, as the Honourable the Mover himself has pointed out very forcibly and effectively in his extremely interesting speech, the party to which I have referred has, quite recently, definitely and unambiguously repudiated the suggestion that this Bill should form a plank of its political platform. But even if the Bill were sponsored by the Congress party, I fail to see what tactical advantage Government could possibly secure by explaining at the present time, as I am now doing, that it has decided to oppose the Bill. Indeed, if it were a question of securing a tactical advantage, as I see the position, Government have much more to gain by maintaining silence as to its intentions and views, or by avoiding--it would have been easy for us to avoid--the present opportunity of explaining those views, than by quite frankly declaring them to the House and to the country. In that case, if we had maintained silence, the fate of the Bill might still have been one of uncertainty, and its opponents might still have apprehended that the Congress party, if returned to the Legislature in sufficient numbers, would revive it as one of the main items of their political platform. But, as things are, it seems to me probable that the opposition of Government in today's debate will see the final obsequies of this Bill, at any rate for a considerable time. But that, as I see the situation in the country as a whole, is, from the point of view of Government *vis-a-vis* the Congress party, a tactical disadvantage to Government rather than an advantage.

No, Sir, it is not on any tactical grounds that Government oppose this Bill. Their opposition is founded on deep-seated grounds of principle, because Government have come to the conclusion that the provisions of the Bill are impracticable, that they are essentially inequitable, and that they are likely to lead to serious disorder. Further, we oppose the Bill on the ground that it is contrary to the wishes of the great majority of the people whom it will affect and that it has only the lukewarm support of the people for whose benefit it is ostensibly intended. And lastly, we

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oppose this Bill on the ground that a measure of this magnitude and importance should not be passed by a legislative body on the verge of its dissolution, at the fag end of its last Session, when even on my Honourable friend's own admission it has no mandate in favour of the Bill from the electorate.

I now propose, Sir, with the permission of the House, to touch briefly on each of these grounds of our opposition. I have said that we regard the Bill as impracticable and as essentially inequitable. Now, what are the actual provisions to which I object? The Bill enacts, to put it quite shortly, that whenever 50 Hindu Voters of the locality in which a temple is situated move a trustee of the temple by a written petition so to do, the trustee is bound to refer to the decision of all Hindu voters of the locality the question whether the temple shall be thrown open to any excluded caste, that is to say, to any caste or class of Hindus which is excluded by reason of a special usage or custom from entering the temple. On such a referendum being made, the decision of the majority of the voters residing in the locality shall be binding on the trustee or trustees of the temple and on all worshippers therein. Now, Sir, to begin with, we all know that it is a well-known trait in human nature to append one's signature to a piece of paper when asked to do so. Signatures to any kind of petition are very easy to obtain, especially in this country, and indeed, as I think I may say, all over the world. I read only the other day the story of an editor of an undergraduates' journal who circulated a petition to all the professors and students in his university, and secured the signatures of five professors and 150 students to a statement binding the signatories within a period of ten days to commit suicide by decapitation. (Laughter.) That shows how easy it will be to obtain signatures of 50 voters to a petition to the trustee of a temple. Apart from that, the first practical difficulty arises in the definition of the word Hindu. No definition, so far as I recollect, is attempted in the Bill, and I defy even my Honourable and learned friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, with all his knowledge of transcendental and other law, to produce within half an hour a definition which will satisfy, I will not say all, but the majority of the sections of this House. The Bill seems to be based on a presumption that all Hindus are a single religious sect, all worshipping the same God and in the same form, and that there are no distinct differences in the ritual and services between temple and temple. Such a presumption is, of course, entirely opposed to the facts as we know them. So far as one can see, the right to decide on the question of throwing a temple open or not would rest on a heterogeneous electorate based, mark you, on a property qualification, and professing possibly at least half a dozen different forms of faith, many of them, quite possibly most of them, not being believers in any form of temple worship. Let me quote in this connection from one opinion,—this is the only quotation with which I will weary the House I hope,—received from a gentleman in Madras. I do not know the gentleman, his name does not convey anything to me, but it struck me on reading his opinion that it was concise and to the point. As regards the assumption that all Hindus are one religious sect worshipping the same God, he observes :

“It is well-known even to Europeans and Muhammadans resident in this country that in the conception of God there is a sharp division into Sakti, Siva and Vishnu for purposes of image worship. There is again the philosophical division

into Dvaitins, Advaitins, and Vasishta Dvaitins. These differences which not infrequently result in active hostility between the adherents of the different schools are so great that the one will not even step into the temple of the other even if invited."

Then he goes on to picture the sort of thing that might happen in, say, a large town in which there are several temples of various sects. The House will excuse me if I find some little difficulty in pronouncing some of these names which all belong to South India. He says :

"To illustrate this, let us presume that in a certain municipal area there is
 3 P.M. one temple dedicated to Vishnu, one to Anjaneya, one to Ramanuja, one to Vedanta Desikar, one to Manavalamamuni, one to Siva and one to Gangamma. If the bulk of the voters is Saivite in persuasion, they will in all probability out of spite vote for the entry of the excluded castes into the Vishnu temple, but not into that of Siva. Similarly if the Vadagalais predominate, entry into the Manavalamamuni temple will be voted, whereas the Vadagalai temple of Vedanta Desikar will be immune. Where again Brahman and anti-Brahman feelings run high, the temple most held in veneration by the Brahmin sect may be voted and thrown open for entry by the excluded castes."

Then, again, he points out :

"A large number of migratory Harijans with the help of a small minority of small sweetmeat shop-keepers, etc., spring up in an area for just the minimum period to qualify for voting, and after the ward election they are taken over to the next ward where election is to come off."

The morality in Madras elections seems to be very low.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : It is even worse than that.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : He adds :

"A large number of migratory Harijans with the help of a small minority of Hindu voters favourable to their cause can manage to secure enough votes to qualify for admission into any temple against the desire of the majority who may not be in favour of the proposal."

I do not want to multiply quotations in this sense, though there are almost innumerable other opinions very much to the same effect. I think I have said enough to show that it is most unlikely that the majority of the Hindu voters in a municipal or other area will be able to arrive at an impartial decision on the merits of the facts of each individual temple. On the contrary, Sir, their decision will almost inevitably, it seems to me, reflect the clash of rival local factions or the play of individual enmity or spite.

This is a most serious and basic difficulty inherent in the Bill, but an even more grave inequity in the Bill seems to me to be the fact that it gives to a purely local congregation the right to decide on the question of access to, and in practice, I have no doubt also, on the question of the form of worship in temples of all-India interest. For example, as the Government of the United Provinces have pointed out, the definition of temple covers such centres of pilgrimage as Ajodhya, Muttra, Benares, Badrinath and Kedarnath. There are, of course, many other temples, and I have in my mind more especially the great shrines in the South of India, to which pilgrims resort from all over the sub-continent. In the case of such temples, it seems to me wholly inequitable, in fact I think it is even ludicrous, that a comparatively small body of local inhabitants should be the persons to decide whether members of the Depressed Classes

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are to be allowed to enter them or not. The United Provinces Government observe :

“ It is absurd to suggest that the residents in the District Board area of Garhwal should have the final voice on the question of whether the great temple of Badrinath is to be thrown open to untouchables, and it is equally absurd that the fate of the temples at Muttra or Ajodhya should lie in the hands of residents of those two municipal areas.”

To take another example. I understand that magnificent buildings have been erected and endowed in Calcutta—in places like Kalighat—by Marwaris from Jodhpur, from Bikaner, from Jaipur and other places in the north of India. None of those who have founded or endowed those temples would appear in the voters' lists, and it can hardly be seriously contended that a few hundred voters of the local board of Alipore should be allowed to decide what persons can worship in the Kalighat temple, which is resorted to by pilgrims from the whole of British India and from many Indian States.

Further, Sir, the Bill seems to me inequitable, in that it must constitute in many cases a serious invasion of what is in essence a private right or trust. Many of these temples have been founded and endowed by devout Hindus for the benefit of a particular caste or sub-section of their community. Many owe their continued existence to the generosity of benefactors who have restored them, possibly from a state of decay, and who devote a large proportion of their private means and leisure to their maintenance and embellishment. Among my own circle of friends and acquaintances, I can think of many gentlemen, who, on retirement from active life either in the service of Government or in the practice of some profession, spend a large part of their leisure and have devoted a substantial portion of their savings for such purposes. Men like this look upon the temples to which they have devoted their money and their care as a sacred trust, and I am convinced that they will resist any infringement, any invasion of their trust to the last ditch. They would bitterly resent being compelled to accept radical innovation such as this Bill provides. You may condemn such men as intolerant, as dogmatic, narrow-minded, even if you like selfish, but you must admit the sincerity of their beliefs and you must admit the reality of the sacrifices they have made. And yet you are seriously proposing rudely to disturb the conditions, to the establishment and preservation of which such men have devoted their labour and their wealth. Such ruthless disregard of private rights and sentiments can surely not be justified even under the most democratic principles without an explicit mandate from the majority of those who will be affected by it.

I think, Sir, I have said enough in justification of our position that this Bill is in essence inequitable, but an even more serious objection from the point of view of Government is that we are advised by the practically unanimous reports of Local Governments that it is certain or at any rate likely to give rise to grave disorder. The Bihar and Orissa Government, for example, say that if the Bill were passed into law, its application would produce violent discord within the Hindu community which must almost inevitably lead to rioting and bloodshed.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : The Bihar Government is putting it too high.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am only quoting what the Government of Bihar and Orissa say. The Madras Government said that there is every likelihood of breaches of the peace and serious factions in villages or of the temples being abandoned by the caste Hindus altogether. That is to say, the caste Hindus will either surrender without a struggle or he will fight. The Punjab Government characterises the Bill as "fraught with danger to the public peace". I may explain that I was not a member of the Punjab Government when this opinion was framed. The Bombay Government said :

"that this Bill will create dissensions among the Hindu community culminating perhaps in frequent breaches of the public peace."

The Government of the United Provinces say :

"that if any serious attempt were made to give practical effect to the Bill, it would almost certainly cause disturbances and breaches of the peace."

One of the District Magistrates in that Province has drawn a vivid picture of the sort of situation that might be expected to arise. He has pointed out that the police may be engaged in stopping a riot in one temple because low-caste worshippers attempted to assert a right of entry given them by local option ; whilst an adjoining temple might be the scene of a riot because the vote had been adverse to the Depressed Classes. It is difficult to conceive a position more embarrassing or indeed more farcical than that. In the face of these opinions, on the probability of disorders and breaches of the peace, I do not see how any Government could do otherwise than oppose a measure which, it is advised from all quarters, would result in disturbances and bloodshed. Any Government, that did not do all within its power to prevent a measure, certain to have such consequences or likely to have such consequences, from passing into law, would be failing in its primary duty. It is not enough to say, as Mr. Justice Madhavan Nair, who was cited with approval by the Honourable the Mover this morning, said, that :

"Government may make rules for preventing riots if riots are apprehended."

(Laughter.)

Sir, I do not think it necessary to develop the point that the Bill is disliked by the majority of those whose interests it affects, that is, by the majority of the Hindu community as a whole, and certainly by the vast majority of those who believe in temple worship. But I have alluded to the fact that the Bill has been received by the Depressed Classes themselves with a certain amount of opposition and, at the best, with very lukewarm support, and I should like to say a few words in corroboration of that view. In Delhi, for example, twenty-one opinions were received from individuals or bodies representing the Depressed Classes, and all were against the Bill. The Central Provinces Government reports that the Depressed Classes do not appear to be enamoured of it. The Bihar and Orissa Government states that the Depressed Classes have no desire that the temples should be thrown open to them, and that the agitation in favour of their entry is regarded merely as a bait for the support of the Harijans at the next elections. In Assam a somewhat different view is taken, namely, that "though the Depressed Classes naturally support the Bill, it can hardly be said that even among them there is any active public opinion that demands it". No definite opinion is expressed on this point by the Madras or Bengal Governments, but the Government of the Punjab have gone into the question in some detail.

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They report that the Punjab *Ad Dharam* Federation, which, I believe, is the most representative body of opinion in the Province, have pointed out that the Depressed Classes do not worship idols at all, and that, therefore, far from being encouraged to go into caste Hindu temples, they think the caste Hindu temples should be boycotted by them. The Federation went on to point out that the Depressed Classes have no desire to be mistaken for Hindus,—and this is rather a striking opinion,—nor have they any wish to go to Hindu temples until the Hindus are prepared to treat them with equality in all respects. That, Sir, is the opinion of what I understand is a genuinely representative body, but a smaller and perhaps a more insignificant body is that of the Balmiki Sabha of Simla, which I understand represents the sweepers' community. They, likewise, state that they have no desire to enter the temples of the high-caste Hindus as they already have temples of their own. Similarly, the Bombay Government state that the Depressed Classes themselves have not shown any zeal in the matter and some of them are even opposed to the Bill. The United Provinces Government express a similar view :

“ The depressed classes ”,

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they say,

“ are generally apathetic, though some of them are definitely opposed to the Bill.”

The all-India Dhobi Panchayat, for example, is one of those in opposition to the Bill. The Association of the Depressed Classes in Kumaon, the Dom or Shilpkars, which has been showing some activity in regard to the social uplift of its members for some time past, is reported to look upon the proposed legislation as a political manoeuvre to be regarded with distrust and suspicion.

So much for the views of those who would be affected, should this Bill become law. My final argument against the Bill is that it is not the kind of measure that should be passed by a legislative body whose term is drawing to an end, during its final Session, especially when even the supporters of the Bill do not claim that they have any clear mandate from their constituents in its favour. That, Sir, is an argument which hardly seems to me to need developing.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I am very reluctant to interrupt the Honourable the Home Member, but as Madras opinion cannot be lightly brushed aside, I would invite him to page 353 giving the opinion of the President of the Madras Depressed Classes Society which wholly supports this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I never suggested that there was no support at all from Depressed Classes ; I suggested that, as a whole, they were either in opposition or lukewarm. I would say this to my Honourable friend, the Mover, and to other eager reformers of his way of thinking, that, much as I respect their ideals and much as I sympathise with the objects for which they are working, I do think that in the case of a change or innovation such as that now under consideration, a change which will so intimately affect the daily lives of millions of our fellow subjects, it is surely better to attempt to attain your end by methods of persuasion, by the gradual education and development of public opinion, both in this country and abroad, in your favour, rather than by endeavouring to force on the country at a single blow a measure

against which the country has recorded so clear and unmistakable a verdict of disapproval. (Hear, hear.) Sir, as a leading article which I read yesterday said :

“ It has to be borne in mind that, in a country like India, social legislation is a matter demanding extreme delicacy and great discretion. The zeal animating social reformers is praiseworthy. But if it is permitted to run away with the necessary discretion, it will defeat its own purpose. An irritating law is a bad law ; and it can scarcely be denied that this type of legislation does irritate large classes of people.”

Finally, Sir, I venture to commend to my friend what seems to me a very wise maxim of a very wise man, Bacon. He observed :

“ It were good that men in their innovations should follow the example of TIME itself, which, indeed, innovateth greatly, but quietly, and by degrees scarce to be perceived.”

Sir, I appeal to my Honourable friend that, after the expressions of opinion which his Bill has received today, he will think fit to withdraw it. (Applause.)

Mr. B. Das : Sir, I wish to make the position of men like myself inside this Legislature and in the country clear about this Temple Entry Bill. Mahatma Gandhi, during his famous Harijan march in Orissa, made it clear to the world what his attitude was towards the temple entry by the Harijans. He declared that as long as there is one high caste Hindu opposed to the entry of the untouchables to the temples he would himself not enter any of the temples nor will he ask the caste Hindus to admit Harijans in their temples. Sir, that is the view which is held by respectable and reasonable people all over India. I was very sorry to hear my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, a very old Congressman and a very old Congress comrade of mine, both on the Congress platforms and on the floor of this House, to have flung mud at the Congress. Sir, I heard with deep humiliation his speech and I can only say : “ Father, forgive him for he knows not what he says ”. Sir, when we have before us the views of the father of this Harijan movement with regard to temple entry, it is futile for us to discuss the question on the floor of this House. Although my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, is the father of this Bill on the floor of this House, he has only lent half-hearted support to it relying more on his cousin who is a Justice of the Madras High Court. So, whatever we discuss today on the floor of this House is mere academic discussion. The Assembly, as it is constituted, cannot record a verdict, and, besides, Mahatma Gandhi does not want to divide the caste Hindus and the Harijans nor does he want to see that they should fight with each other. When he was asked to visit that great temple of Jagannath in the town of Puri, he did not visit it. I am sure Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, before he translates himself to the other world, must visit that temple once so that he may attain his salvation.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I have already visited it.

Mr. B. Das : Probably Lord Jagannath will guide you to the path of truth and righteousness, if you visit that temple once more. So, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi did not visit the temple of Jagannath. Sir, I will only speak of my own Province of Orissa. Sir, Lord Jagannath is known as the *Patita Pavan*, which means the purifier of all the fallen ones. Before Lord Jagannath there is no caste and no creed. Although the

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high caste Brahmins, the so-called priest-craft, have made the Jagannath temple a *sanctum sanctorum*, yet there are days when, irrespective of caste and creed, any Hindu, any untouchable, can visit and approach the golden throne of Lord Jagannath.

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member quoted the opinion of the Government of Bihar and Orissa in support of his opposition to this Bill. But he forgot to see the implications and he could not see what was agitating the mind of that Government.

Mr. N. R. Gunjal : Did Mahatma Gandhi go to the temple of Jagannath ?

Mr. B. Das : Mahatma Gandhi did not want to go there as long as the heart of the caste Hindus is not purified and as long as they do not recognise the Harijans as their brothers and do not welcome them in the temple of Jagannath. Sir, I was referring to the view of the Government of Bihar and Orissa. Sir, the Government of Bihar and Orissa is known as the Harijan Government—the depressed Government among the Provincial Governments in India because their views are always depressed. This is what they say :

“ So far as the Local Government are aware the Depressed Classes in Bihar have no desire that the temples should be thrown open to them. The agitation for temple entry has at the bottom a political move and is a bid for the support of the Harijan vote at the next elections.”

Sir, I belong to this Province and I do not know if there are even a hundred Harijans in the Province of Bihar and Orissa who command votes either for the local Council or for the Assembly. How can the Harijan votes be won over at the next elections is a mystery to me and to say that the Depressed Classes do not want admission to the temples is a myth. Sir, I had the privilege of joining on three or four occasions that great march on foot which Mahatma Gandhi did from the Puri town to the town of Balasore in Orissa. Mahatma Gandhi found out that that was the right way of approaching the hearts of the people and the soul of the millions and millions of masses, whether they are depressed or high caste Brahmins like my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur. Mahatma Gandhi found out that the right way to approach the hearts of the people was to identify himself in the mode of living with the people, and, therefore, he gave up motor cars and railway travelling and he walked on the high roads and met there hundreds of thousands of people and had heart-to-heart contact with them.

An Honourable Member : “ What about Chaitanya ? ”

Mr. B. Das : I know that Orissa lost her freedom and Empire through the religious preaching of a Bengalee Brahmin named Chaitanya, who, I understand, was the son of an Oriya Brahmin. Sir, we are all Harijans in India. The Raja Bahadur may take pride in the fact that he is a Brahmin by birth but he is a Harijan when he visits the abode of the Honourable the Home Member. We are all Harijans before the Government of India, which carry out the white man's burden. So, it is no use our quarrelling here on the floor of this House and thinking that we are high caste Hindus and others are Depressed Classes. Sir, Mr. Ranga Iyer made a mis-statement that the great Brahmin Shankracharya of Malabar tried to imitate the Buddhist religion by multiplying the temples all over

India. It was the other way about. I wish there were no Brahmins in priest-craft not only in India but all over the Universe. It was the Brahmin priests.....

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : They will be done.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, Pandit Sen, is equally a non-Brahmin like myself. (*Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :* "No.") He need not take pride in the fact that Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar will dine with him at the same table or even in the same room. Raja Bahadur will do nothing of the kind.

Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : You do not know the implication of the word "non-Brahmin". There are other twice-born castes than Brahmins.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend has interpreted literally. But what I mean by priest-craft is the Brahmin priest-craft as well as the non-Brahmin priests. It is these priests, in order that they might protect their own emoluments, in order that they might be drones on society, went to build barriers of caste. When the Aryan conquerors came, a few adopted the profession of priest-craft and the Aryans divided themselves into three sacred castes. I belong to the Kshatriya caste, though I have fallen from the true ideals of Kshatriya, having been forced to live by my brain and pen. What is my Honourable friend, Pandit Sen? He is a Vaidya. When these Aryans came, the Brahmin priests among them found an easy way of eking out their livelihood by living upon other castes. The Aryans tried to differentiate the original inhabitants of India, namely the Dravidians, the great nation that ruled India with their culture and civilisation which goes back to 100,000 years. In this way the Aryans differentiated the original inhabitants, and those who opposed them they called them untouchables. We find that these Brahmin priests combined together and fought against the Buddhists and after they were vanquished they called them the untouchables. A large number of untouchables are known as Namasudras or Chandalas in Bengal, they are nothing but high class Buddhists and it is these Brahmin priests of Bengal that condemned them to the class of Namasudras. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, who is himself a Brahmin, probably an equally good Brahmin like my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, ought to have admitted the sins of his own community who have brought about the state of Hindu society to this condition that a large multitude of people are today debarred from worshipping God in a common temple. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce : Indian Commerce) : But is God situate in one temple?

Mr. B. Das : I am not discussing here the oneness of God or the doctrines of the Brahmo religion. I am talking of temple entry. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Sen, is a Hindu, he knows there are thousands of temples built by ordinary common priests, so that they could earn their livelihood out of those temples. What the nation want and what a large number of people who believe in idolatry and idol worship want is that these temples should be thrown open to all the Hindus who believe in idol worship. Now, I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member to the view of a Judge of the Patna High Court, Justice Macpherson, and he says at page 181 :

"Temple entry is mainly, if not entirely, a question for Hindus and on the reports of views of the Bar Association, a preponderating opinion of the highly

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English educated would seem to be in favour. The procedure laid down is perhaps open to criticism."

I want the House to note the next sentence,—

"One point, however, I lay stress upon both as a Judge and as a Member of the public,"

I am glad this Englishman identifies himself as a Member of the public,—

"if there is to be legislation, it should not be on the eye-wash lines of the Sarda Act but a serious Statute, not one to bring the whole Statute Book into contempt."

I am not here to say that this House should legislate for temple entry.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. K. C. Neogy, one of the Panel of Chairman.]

I stand by what Mahatma Gandhi has said and what has been accepted by the intelligentsia of the country. Speaking as a Congressman, who has been so from 1919, not as a Congress leader, I do not pose that I am a leader in this House or outside this House.....

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Are you a Congressman?

Mr. B. Das : Yes, I am.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Then why are you here?

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, the Home Member, has not understood what a Congressman is. Any man who pays a subscription of four annas and signs and accepts the Congress creed is a Congressman.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : But I thought he had also got to wear khaddar habitually.

Mr. B. Das : Sir, I am not here to bandy words with the Honourable the Home Member, but if I ask him, "Are you a good Christian" and if I again interject "Do you always follow Christian virtues and Christian doctrines", he may say, "No". Even so, I may not be a Congressman in the sense that I do not carry out every programme of the Congress, but all the same I am a Congressman.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It comes to this then that the Honourable Member is a Congressman, but not a good Congressman. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das : It is for others to judge whether I am a good Congressman, or not. I am not to judge my own action. But I am a Congressman all the same. For us the problem is at rest now. We hope that the caste Hindus will realise the gravity of the position in the country, the untouchable position in which they are placed in the country, politically and socially, by the rule of a foreign Government that rules India. If they are themselves untouchables politically and socially in the eyes of Government, then they ought to have sympathy with those whom they have deliberately kept out of the fold of Hinduism and of the great Hindu community. I am sure my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, will soon speak on this debate. I do want him to

reply to the appeal of Sir Muhammad Yakub, namely when he called upon the Depressed Classes, whom the Hindus do not admit socially and economically to the Hindu fold, to embrace Muslim faith, what is the remedy that the Raja Bahadur has got for that? The only remedy is that we should realise that we are all the sons of one God. We are all Hindus. All the privileges are not meant for the few Brahmins that exploit the caste Hindus and Depressed Classes. It is they who brought down the degradation of Hindu society and brought down the ruin of this sacred Bharatvarsha so that for 2,000 years we are under foreign rule. If my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, speaks, let him talk why India came under foreign grip. It is because of the distinction created by the Brahmins, they tried to differentiate between caste and caste and tried to shut out a very large population—the Dravidian population and other population that were the original inhabitants of India—and condemned them to a state of untouchability.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muham-madan Rural) : Where do you take your history from?

Mr. B. Das : I did not get it from Persia in any case

Sir, that is my appeal to the Hindus at large, and if my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, divides this House, I will whole-heartedly vote with him, because I am for the emancipation of the Depressed Classes. But if Mr. Ranga Iyer does not want to divide the House, I am not going to challenge a division because I stand by the dictum of Mahatma Gandhi, and, I hope, the hearts of the high caste Hindus will be purified and ennobled so that they will see the Light of God, and, if they see the Light of God, that Light should not be denied to those who today are known as the Depressed Classes.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Sir, may I ask one question? Is Mr. Das aware, when he quoted the dictum of Mahatma Gandhi, that Mr. Gandhi had stated that if votes are taken on this motion neither Muslims nor Christians but only Hindus should take part in the voting?

Mr. B. Das : Yes, Sir, I am aware of that.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Sir, it is my duty, before I proceed to submit to the House the few observations that I intend making, to most heartily congratulate Government on the most sensible view that they have taken upon the question, a view which is founded not upon prejudice, not upon sentiment, not upon any tactical advantage that they wanted to obtain by taking this attitude, but a well considered, a carefully thought out opinion, based upon the mass of opinions that have been submitted to them by every responsible person, commencing from the Local Governments right up to their own officers, both European and Indian. Sir, I was afraid, I can frankly confess, that, after all, the Government of India, in view of the fact that this is the last day of the Session, might somehow or other not be in a position,—I do not say they wanted to shirk it,—but they might not be in a position to give expression to their views and we shall all separate from this place without exactly knowing what, after all, is the attitude of the one Government that counted with reference to this Bill. Fortunately, God has enabled us to have this Bill for discussion on the floor of this House, thanks greatly to the courtesy of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer; because, I have no objection to tell you that if he said that he

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was not going to move the Bill, no power on earth, not even the President in his Chair, could have compelled him to move it.

Sir, the whole of Sanatanist India and in fact the whole population of India with the exception probably of that minor fraction,—and even they should be thankful,—in fact the entire population of India should be thankful to Mr. Ranga Iyer for having given us this opportunity to draw out from the Government of India their attitude regarding this matter ; an attitude which, I assure them, would reassure the entire Hindu community, probably with the exception of a few persons, with regard to the real attitude of the Government of India in matters of this sort and thus restore the faith which, I say without fear of contradiction, Government have been fast losing in consequence of the manner in which they have been allowing one irreligious legislation after another to come up before this House. Sir, in their own interest, in the interest of the peace and good Government of India and in the interest of the stability of the British Government, of which I am a great believer, I say they must restore that faith and confidence. I do not believe in that slogan of foreign Government and all that sort of thing. No Government is foreign and no Government is indigenous. Sir, we have had a little foretaste of indigenous Government in Madras which gentlemen here may not know. My friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, depicted one portion of it and it and my Honourable friend, the Home Member, read an opinion which has come very handy that in the case of a dispute between Vadagalais and Thengalis, the Thengalis would out of spite instigate the voters to vote for the entry of the Depressed Classes,—I do not like the word “ Harijan ”, I will say presently why,—into the Vadaigalai temple and *vice versa*. Sir, that opinion is not imaginary and I will tell you exactly what happened. In my own native place of Mannargudi in the Tanjore district, there is a very big tank which covers an area of nearly a square mile and a half. It was not built by any of these gentlemen but by the old Rajas of Tanjore. All round the banks of that tank, on the four sides, only Brahmins reside. It is supposed to be the holiest tank in that locality and consequently a large number of people including non-Brahmins go and have baths there on holy and sacred occasions. Now, Sir, this tank is supplied by means of a channel from another tank which is ten miles ahead. As soon as the channel enters the municipal limit it bifurcates. One channel gets into this tank, another channel gets into the other quarters of the town in order to supply the tanks of that place. Now, Sir, what did the people do ? Notwithstanding the fact that there was a floating festival connected with the temple which is to take place there, the municipality of Mannargudi, consisting mostly of non-Brahmins, passed a resolution that this tank should not be supplied with water until the entire number of tanks in the locality were supplied. And why ? Because it is mostly used by Brahmins. If you want a certified copy of that resolution I will produce it ; I have got it in Hyderabad.

Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : How many Brahmins are there in Mannargudi ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I am sorry I have not got the number at present, but I have noted the question and I will give an answer to my Honourable friend in due course.

Sir, I was talking of the position. Perhaps my friend will understand it before he jumps up again. The reason of the resolution was that the tank is surrounded by Brahmin houses who from morning till evening draw water there, and the Brahmins should not be given that water ! That is the reason ; and I was making it as a point to show that the prejudice, the feeling and the passion that would be roused, if such a thing is put to vote, is not imaginary. The gentlemen who gave the opinion exactly understood the position ; and that is a sort of indigenous Government where your own people have manned the local bodies and your own people have manned all the grades of administration right up to the top. Go to Madras for a little while, say that you are a Brahmin and see what difficulty arises. And, after all, what did Brahmins do ? Thousands of years ago a gentleman of the name of Manu, who was not even a Brahmin, instituted the Dharma-Shastra and they have all burnt the Dharma-Shastras and yet the Brahmin lives. That, Sir, is the condition of an indigenous Government. If this is the real condition of the Government that is going to be established in consequence of the White Paper or any other proposal, God save us from that indigenous Government. That, Sir, is my position. I do not say that the British Government is a very good Government ; I have my own grievances and if you want me to recite them I will take 48 hours to do that without sleeping. (Laughter.) But you must take the entire position into consideration and say which Government is good, not because it is manned by white people, not because it is manned by black people, or brown or all other shades of colour, but the real achievement of the Government. After all, there is a great deal of draw-back in the British Government. However, I am not discussing that point : I think I have made my position clear.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Perhaps you find it awkward !

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I do not know how my friend, Mr. Jog, says that it is awkward : it is absolutely not awkward to me at all. I am under the British Government under their iron heel so far as my land is concerned : I have had administrative experience in the foremost Indian State : I have had experience of many other States ; where my friends and relations are living. It is absolutely no inconvenience to me at all to refer to it : no Government can be conducted upon the principles of the Sermon on the Mount. There ought to be trouble and of course we have got to take into consideration the comparative trouble ; and, consequently, I have no illusions in regard to this matter. But that is not the point just now. I thank the Government of India for having taken this bold and courageous step and announced to the world that they are not going to tolerate this piece of legislation, practically universally condemned. But I have got a little complaint. My friend, Mr. Jog, said, it would be inconvenient for me. But no inconvenience ever affected me, nor, I hope will it affect me hereafter. I carefully followed the various headings under which the Honourable the Home Member said that the Government of India was going to oppose this Bill ; but I was waiting for him to declare that this Bill, being opposed to the religious beliefs and considerations of the majority of the Hindus, the Government are bound by the Royal Proclamation, commencing from the Proclamation of Queen Victoria, that they should not put any one to trouble because of

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his belief and "that on pain of our serious displeasure none of those who are in service under us shall interfere with the modes of worship of our Hindu subjects". That was a solemn injunction laid upon these servants of the British Indian Government by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and it is upon that that we base our opposition and my Honourable friend, the Home Member, did not say that as one of the reasons, whereas I had expected he would do so.....

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : May I just interrupt the Honourable Raja Bahadur : from the Queen's Proclamation a sort of religious neutrality, I think, is expected on the part of the Government and, I thought, he would be grateful to the Honourable the Home Member for violating that neutrality in favour of the Raja Bahadur.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : The Honourable the Home Member did not do anything of the sort. My complaint is, that in addition to the considerations which as a political Government, as a political institution, it cannot take a risk against which its subordinate governments warned it, I say, in addition to that, it ought to have given prominence to the one position which almost all the Local Governments have stated, namely, that it is a question of religion and that it is dangerous for the Government of India to allow this Bill to be proceeded with. They shut out the alternative that the Government should remain neutral ; but, on the contrary, they should actively oppose it : the Punjab Government say : " If, however, the danger occurs "—mark the word—" that this Bill should be proceeded with,"—in their opinion it is a positive danger—why ?—because you must not interfere with religion. That, I submit, is my complaint against the Government of India that they did not say that this being a religious subject, the Government ought not to interfere and allow this mixed Legislature to declare as to what shall be my religion or my faith or whether I am right or wrong in holding that faith.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : The Government have correctly interpreted the Queen's Proclamation.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : That is just what I say : Government have correctly interpreted the Proclamation, but men who have not got the abstruse knowledge of my friend, Mr. Jadhav, probably because I have never been inside a Provincial Cabinet, cannot know that without referring to the Proclamation or to the principles contained in that long speech made by the Honourable the Home Member, it could be deduced : that is my objection. Barring that, I do not want to mar a good situation. I say I voice the indebtedness of the entire community for this bold stand. Another matter is this : I must congratulate His Excellency Lord Willingdon. I share with my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, in the congratulations that he humbly offered to that exalted personage for this reason : I have no objection to tell you that, before sanction to introduce this Bill was accorded, I went all the way down to Calcutta and I tried to induce His Excellency not to give sanction to this Bill. He gave me a two hours' interview within a few hours of his arrival there and I was very satisfied : I thought I was entirely successful ; but, early in January, a bomb was thrown at my head and when I saw the Government communiqué at that time, I was very angry, I assure you. I thought

His Excellency was not going to sanction it and that he made a great mistake in doing so. Later, on further consideration and after the result that we have now seen of this reference for public opinion, far from being angry with him, I am greatly obliged to him ; and I tender my thanks, on behalf of the whole community, because in the course of conversation with him I told him that the great majority of the community was behind me and he said : “ Very well, my dear friend, if that is so, why do you not go and prove it ? ” Although I was quite ready to prove it, I thought that my *ipse dixit* was quite sufficient ; but it was not. Now, today, standing on the floor of this House, I am thankful to him for having given the country this opportunity of expressing its opinion unmistakably against the wicked principles underlying this Bill—they are not my words, they are the words of judicial officers and executive officers holding the position of Commissioners of Divisions : I think it is a mischievous and wicked Bill which has been brought forward here on the floor of this House, a piece of legislative impertinence as one of the officers said.

I was going to refer to the statement made by Mr. Rajagopalachariar, but as that has been done by my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, it has taken the wind out of my sails completely. But I am not sorry for it : there is only one thing I will allude to and that is this : my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, quoted some speech of Mr. Gandhi, and, he said, so long as there is one Hindu against it, so long he will not have this Bill passed or he will not ask any untouchable to enter a temple. Is that true ? Mr. Gandhi has been making experiments with truth. Day after day, week after week, a recital of his experiments with truth we have read in the newspapers. What is the truth ? Mr. Rajagopalachariar, his lieutenant, his close relation, because he has given his daughter in marriage to Mr. Gandhi's son, what does he write to me along with other Hindu members of this Legislature just before we met for this Session ? Mr. Gandhi does not want the Muhammadan votes ; he does not want the Christian votes ; he does not want anybody else's votes, but if the Hindu Members of the Assembly would agree to his principle, he has no objection to this Bill being tightened so far as the conditions are concerned. I shall give my reply. Place in juxtaposition the gentleman who is opposing me in my constituency, who made his first election speech the other day. A question was put to him immediately that I went to my constituency in which, I believe, I have some little influence. Of course, this gentleman came not to create any trouble in the place. I wrote to my constituency asking them not to create any trouble in the meeting, but only to put my rival candidate three questions, namely—“ What is your attitude regarding the Temple Entry Bill ; what is your attitude regarding the anti-religious legislation ; what is your attitude regarding the socialistic attitude of the Congress ” ? I wanted the meeting to put these three questions to my friend, Dr. Rajan, he is a good friend of mine, he is a good man, he has treated me sometimes, although he became angry with me latterly.....

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : On a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member making an electioneering speech or is he speaking on the Temple Entry Bill ?

4 P.M.

An Honourable Member : Kindly speak up.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Very well, Sir, the fact of the matter is, those questions were put to him. I am now talking of Mr.

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Gandhi who has been praised to the skies. The greatest sin that my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, committed was when he talked of a gentleman who is Gandhi's lieutenant. Now, this other gentleman said :

“ Even Gandhi had realised that the country was not ripe for allowing Harijans into temples.”

He concluded by saying that they would do nothing which was not supported by public opinion. I want to put a direct question to Mr. B. Das who was very angry, because Mr. Gandhi was attacked in this House. Now my question is,—did or did not Mr. Gandhi know at the time when he allowed his lieutenant, his henchman, the man who is behind the temple entry question,—that Mr. Gandhi will be quite satisfied if the Hindu Members were agreeable, or at least a majority of them were agreeable, to vote for the proposition ? That shows that though Mr. Gandhi was satisfied that the public was not behind him, why did Mr. Gandhi make this experiment of getting the Hindu Members of this House to get a vote by a trick, shall I say ? Why did he attempt to do it ? And yet, Mr. B. Das is very angry with us, because we have attacked Mr. Gandhi. Sir, I have got to refer to Mr. Gandhi because of his close connection with the temple entry question. He has got certain qualities which our Shastras lay down as the highest qualities to be possessed by any human being. If he had confined himself to those qualities, if he had exercised his intellect and used his energies in the sphere to which his qualities relate, he would today have been, not what he unfortunately aspired to become and never succeeded, actually the leader of one phase of Indian opinion. Unfortunately, he began to attack our idols, whether they are good or bad. So far as we can work our memory back, we never allowed even the greatest and most cruel invaders to lay their hands upon our idols, and if any one were to attempt to lay his hands upon our temples or idols, that would be the last time when he can have any influence in this world so far as India is concerned. That has been the experience of this country, and the latest example of that is Mr. Gandhi who, out of his great enthusiasm for the Depressed Classes, thought that the only way in which he could improve their condition was to defy our idols. Well, Sir, our idols do not speak, but they have acted in a way that, where three years ago none of us had any chance on public platforms, whenever we might go, today his procession is followed by black flags, shattering of the wind screens of cars, followed by police, because some of his own followers attacked Mr. Gandhi, I believe, an unfortunate man by the name Lal Nath.....

Mr. B. Das : But that attack on Pandit Lal Nath was not made by friends of Harijans, but by his own followers.

[At this stage, the Honourable the Law Member rose to address the House.]

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy) : The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Sir, I have not finished.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy) : The Chair thought the Honourable Member had finished.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : No, Sir. I shall now leave Mr. Gandhi alone, because I do not want to take up the time of the House.

I only wish to remind my friend about the bomb incident in Poona. Now, who was the witness? Mr. Bhopatkar. The bomb fell somewhere near Mr. Gandhi, and Mr. Bhopatkar was hurt.....

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : How is this all relevant?

• **Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar** : I shall show you how it is relevant. At the place where Mr. Gandhi was going to be presented with an address, poor Mr. Bhopatkar had to suffer,—I do not know for whose fault, because the bomb burst in his presence, and all those little things which contained in the bomb entered his system, and he was suffering.....

Mr. S. C. Mitra : How are all these matters relevant to the discussion.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : This matter is relevant in this way, because Mr. Gandhi has been extolled to the skies, and I know that he is the man behind this movement,—there is no question about it at all—and I want to satisfy this House, and, through this House, the public at large, that the man who instigated this Bill, who created all this trouble in the country, is a man with such a record, and, therefore, the public could judge of him upon the acts and facts that have actually occurred.

Sir, my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, put me a question whether these things could not be solved by allowing free entry of Depressed Classes into the temples.....

An Honourable Member : They are Harijans, they are not Depressed Classes.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Yes, I am also a Harijan, my friend Mr. Ghuznavi is a Harijan, the Home Member is a Harijan, every man whom God likes is a Harijan. Does God dislike me? We are all God's children, and I claim that God likes me more than all these gentlemen. Sir, a little learning is a dangerous thing. Soor Das, the great poet of Gujerat, in his various songs, has referred not to the Depressed Classes, but to the entire human creation as Harijans. Unfortunately, I do not remember those verses, somebody gave me a list of them, but there he refers to the entire human race as Harijans in order to exhort them to walk in God's ways. Now, Mr. Gandhi, who is a great believer in these songs and *bhajans*, had, I suppose, at some time or other, got these things by heart and then he thought it was a very nice thing to give a new appellation to his clients, and, thereby, he expected to raise himself in the estimation of the people. Unfortunately, Sir, he did not reckon with a friend over there in Madras of the name of Rao Sahib or Rao Bahadur,—I do not know,—Srinivasan,—who is a member of the Depressed Class. He was a co-adjutor of Mr. Gandhi in South Africa. He wrote an open letter to Mr. Gandhi on the occasion of his visit to Madras, and said that they were all awfully disgusted with Mr. Gandhi's ways :

“Our people do not care for these things. For God's sake, don't call us by this name.”

That is what happened, and that is why I do not want to call them Harijans because they themselves do not want it.

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There are two matters upon which I must speak before I go further. So far as economic uplift and other co-ordinated uplift of the Depressed Classes are concerned, I am entirely at one, and will even proceed further than what the Honourable the Home Member has said. I do not speak the language of exaggeration, I am not for winning a dialectical victory, but I shall state, as shortly as possible, what I have been doing in my village, and if anybody has any doubts—well, my Honourable friend, Mr. Rajah, when he was more favourable to me...

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah (Nominated Non-Official) : What makes my Honourable friend to think that I am not favourable to him now ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I am glad. I thought that he had some spite against me because I was a Brahmin.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : You are looking through your own glasses !

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Will you welcome him to your house if he goes over there ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I have already answered that question once, and I have been through a lot of fire because of the straight answer I gave, and I decline to answer the question now. I was on the question of the uplift of the Depressed Classes. In the Tanjore district and in the Trichinopoly district I have got lands in four villages, and I challenge any of these gentlemen to come over there to my villages and see whether the Harijans... (*An Honourable Member* : "Hullo, Harijans." ?) (Laughter.).... Depressed Classes. What can I do ? The environments are such that sometimes you are led into using expressions which you do not actually believe in. That is human nature. I say, I wanted you to see whether we have not done already what Government say they have done to these Depressed Classes. Separate wells have been dug, separate and better residences for them have been given. Where they had been living in bogs and swamps, they are living now in much better residences, they have been provided with practically every convenience that we can supply. Don't think that we are rolling in wealth. Come to the villages and see. We are as much depressed as they are, the landowners are more depressed than the Depressed Classes themselves. Well, to the extent of our resources I have done, and most of my fellow *mirasdars* have done. But, of course, we do not shout, we do not go, nobody presents us with addresses when we come out, no festoons, no garlands, no entertainments, no tea parties, and no music. (*An Honourable Member* : "No purses !") Purses ? Who is going to give us purses ? They are ready to take money from us ; don't you think of purses ; purses are reserved for somebody else. So far as economic uplift is concerned, we have been doing, we have absolutely no objection to do all in our power to help these classes to come up. But, Sir, that is quite different from giving them equality in our religion as we understand it. As the Honourable the Home Member said, call us all sorts of names, there are only two names that can be given, obscurantist and reactionary. Add that to the list that the Honourable the Home Member gave, and call me by any name. I prefer to be called all sorts of names and I prefer to be in the religion with the beliefs that have afforded solace to my ancestors from the

beginning of time and that is affording solace to the teeming millions of this land, and not all the abuses that could be showered on my head, and not all the abuses that could find a place in any dictionary, or even in the New Oxford Dictionary, will induce me to change that faith. And, Sir, what is the result ? Do you understand Hinduism ? Do you understand the real tenet of it ? So far as these Depressed Classes are concerned, they say there is a passage of the Puranas which says that when the sages went to Parasura for knowing what *Dharma* should be followed in this *Yuga*, Parasura understood the whole thing. He took a dip in the sacred river and immediately got up and said, "Sudra Sadhu". One fortunate man in the *Kaliyuga* is the Sudra. A more fortunate man is the Depressed Class, because he has not got to perform any ceremony. He has not got to keep any fasts ; all that he has got to do is to pronounce the name of God and that has as much effect as the most difficult penance that you can ever make. That, Sir, is what is contained in the Shastras, and there is no good saying that you have not been given the *Mantra Diksha*, therefore, you are in any way inferior.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadian) : Do the Shastras regard the Sudras as superior to Brahmmins ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : There is no question. That is just like my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, the modern Manu of India. (Laughter.) My Honourable friend does not know a word of Sanskrit. He does not know what is stated in the Shastras. He has read fourth-rate English translations of Hindu law books, and an unsophisticated community has enriched him by buying by thousands his book on Hindu Code. Whoever looked at the Hindu Code to see whether it was the correct Hindu law or not ? Sir Hari Singh Gour, K.C.S.I., L.L.D., Ph.D., etc., etc., (Laughter)

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy) : We have had enough of personalities ; the Honourable Member would do well to come back to the Bill.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : The question was put whether under the Hindu law the Sudras are superior to the Brahmmins, and I am first removing the fallacy contained in the major premise, and now I shall proceed to show, in the minor premise, not as stated by me, but as stated by Mr. Gandhi, the modern prophet of Hinduism, in his reply to Dr. Ambedkar, that there is no such thing as inferiority or superiority in the Hindu religion. Each class by itself is superior ; each class by itself is inferior. Each in the Hindu religion has got a specific duty to perform, and as long as he performs that duty, that caste is the highest caste among the Hindus. It is men like Sir Hari Singh Gour who have instilled into the minds of these unsophisticated people that there is a superiority and an inferiority. We have divided it, rightly or wrongly, long before you or most of us were born,—that this is the system that should obtain in the Hindu society. This is their sociological division, and this is a division which has extorted the admiration of impartial philosophers, the latest of whom is Nietzsche, who in describing the division of society laid down by Manu said that the last word regarding sociological division has been stated by Manu and there is nothing to improve upon it. Sir, I was on the question of the uplift of the Depressed Classes. The next point that I want to come to is the challenge made to me about the building of tem-

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ples for the Depressed Classes. I do not know if it is well-known here that the Depressed Classes have got their own forms of worship, their own temples, and they in their temples do not want that they should be interfered with, nor in their worship. I may tell you exactly what happens in the villages. There are various village deities for whom there are temples and everybody is bound to contribute both to the building of the temple, when it is under repair and to contribute to the expenses connected with the festival. The way we go about building the temples is that all the labourers contribute their labour by either providing bricks or putting them up and raising a wall, and those of us who cannot do that sort of thing pay money. If Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, will go to the villages he will find that each village has got various temples, one for Mariamman, the small-pox deity, Ayanar temple, that is supposed to be the guardian deity of the village, one for Pidari, and for so many other Gods and Goddesses in gradation. Now, Sir, the custom in the South Indian villages at least is this. Before you start cultivation you must perform the annual festival of these Gods and Goddesses, otherwise, it is believed that the wrath of these Gods and Goddesses is visited upon the people. There is cholera, there is small-pox, there is anthrax amongst the cattle or there is some other calamity which is supposed to be brought about by the wrath of these Gods and Goddesses. Then, Sir, I have got to contribute along with the meanest villagers for the expenses of these festivals. I am not aware of the conditions in other parts of the country. Therefore, I submit that the temples exist there already, and, if you want more temples, we shall do all in our power to construct those temples and help them, if that is their idea, but, Sir, I make bold to say that this agitation is mostly engineered by persons who have themselves no faith in the temples, who themselves do not go to the temples and see the idols.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

Consequently this is the objection which we have got. I had originally intended to deal with the mass of opinions, but I have no time, and, therefore, I shall not trouble the House with them but I will refer to only one thing. On the last occasion when I was speaking on the Untouchability Bill, I referred to the story of Saint Nandanar, regarding whom the Honourable gentleman in charge of that Bill made certain statements. I accepted all those statements and I only added as a rider that he was allowed to come into the temple after passing over a heap of fire. Up jumped my friend. He said that all this is the work of the cunning and wily Brahmin and that there is no such record anywhere at all, and it is you, not me personally, you the Brahmins, who have concocted this story and not all my pathetic appeal to him that this appears in the archaeological records would induce my friend to withdraw that unfortunate expression he used against the Brahmin. Now, Sir, how does retribution work. There is a gentleman who is the District Judge of Cuddalore. He is not a Brahmin. His name is Mr. Ratnavelu Pillai. This is what he says about the specific statement of the Honourable Member :

“As in other countries, there have been religious reformers in India also. That accounts for the 63 Nayanmars, etc. Nandanar, the Panchama Saint who is said to have attained salvation in Chidambaram, is one of such examples. He wanted to see Nataraja, the dancing figure of Siva and, by His grace, got the permission of his hard taskmaster and was waiting outside the temple premises. He did not get entrance into the temple of Sri Nataraja as a Panchama as the speech of

Mr. M. C. Rajah would suggest, but on the other hand, according to the Puranam by his prayer to Nataraja, Nataraja appeared in the dreams of the Dikshitar, mentioned to them that his *bhakta* (devotee) was waiting outside the temple in a corner of the town and enjoined them to get him purified and bring him before his presence and that accordingly Nandanar went through an ordeal of fire and emerged as a Bruhmin with all the appearance of a Dikshitar and that he was then taken to the presence of Sri Nataraja."

Now, Sir, I may be absolutely wrong in my contentions. So far as this is concerned, here is an authority, a gentleman of the position of a District Judge, a non-Brahmin. This is how he justifies it.

Sir, I have not much time left. There is one thing which I want to say with regard to the judges of the High Court. I have got a complaint against them, those judges of the High Court who had given their opinion. Now, one of them has considered the question from the stand-point of the Honourable the Home Member. As the highest exponents of the law in the land, was it or was it not their duty to find out how the civil rights connected with these temples were disturbed by this Bill, how temples built for the benefit of one community would be allowed to be dissipated and desecrated, if the original object of the founders is not fulfilled. At least the judges of the High Court would be expected to consider that position, whereas they have been led away by the very skilful manner in which the Bill is drafted, especially the provision regarding the alleged disability of the Depressed Classes. Most of them have been led away by it, and, lastly, I have got a complaint against those Muhammadan gentleman from the Judges of the High Court downwards, who say that they are in agreement with the Bill. On the contrary, the European judges of the High Court said that this is a matter for the Hindu community and they are not concerned. In the same way, if they did not want to discuss it, they should have said 'This is a matter which concerns the Hindu community. We are not going to give any opinion'. How will these Muhammadan gentleman like it if I interfere with their precepts and lay down what their Muhammadan religion should be, just as my friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, did unfortunately. Sir Muhammad Yakub spoke of my religion contemptuously when he said that he did not like untouchability should form part of the religion. Shall I repeat to him the same thing. Now, I would not do it because I have not got the time.

An Honourable Member : Are you afraid of Ghuznavi ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : No, I am not afraid of Ghuznavi. Sir Muhammad Yakub extended an invitation to all and sundry to embrace Islam in order to have this universal equality. I will give you one instance. In Hyderabad, there is a strong Shia community and a strong Sunni community. The Sunnis have their own mosques and the Shias have got their own mosques. I am addressing Sir Muhammad Yakub. Unfortunately he is not here. Would you believe it that the Shias and the Sunnis recognise the same Prophet, who recognise the same God whose Prophet Muhammad was—the Shias are not allowed to go and enter the Sunni mosques in order to say their prayers and *vice versa*.

An Honourable Member : That is not true.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I am going to tell you what happened in Hyderabad. There is a Sunni masjid in which three Shias went in. I suppose, in order to create a disturbance. Now, Sir, I believe, the practice of the Shia Muhammadans and the Sunni Muhammadans differ.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty): Would the Honourable Member now conclude his speech and give a chance to other speakers?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar: That is why I am anxious to finish my speech. I have got here 800 pages and I have got here materials which can engage me for three days. I am very sorry that it is suggested that I was taking up the time of other gentlemen, when I find that a gentleman like Sir Muhammad Yakub attacking my religion and calling all and sundry to become Muhammadans and I think it is my duty to show that this trouble obtains also in the Muhammadan religion, before Sir Muhammad Yakub asks all and sundry to enter the Islamic faith. I have only got a few facts to say upon this matter. Sir, it seems, I do not know, I speak subject to correction from my Honourable friends, it seems, the Sunni Muhammadans in saying their prayers hold their hands like that, and that the Shia people drop down their hands like that, I do not know which, I am not sure, but it is no good saying no, because it was I who practically drafted the *farman* referred to, in order to prevent this sort of thing. Now, whatever it is, there were signs of disturbance, words resulted in blows and blows resulted in bloodshed, that was reported to the late Nizam and he intervened, and, consequently, he issued a *farman*, which I had the honour of helping in drafting under instructions from the most learned Maulvis with long *daris* (Laughter), and, in that I said that no Shia is to enter a Sunni mosque unless he wishes to conform to the practices of that mosque and *vice versa*. That, Sir, is the difficulty, and as I promised that I would not speak much longer, I will not speak about the idolatry of the Muhammadans at the Kaaba. Sir, we, after all, all have got our beliefs, we all have got our different predilections and idiosyncracies. It is no good trying to attack each other. Sir, I think the Government are perfectly well-advised in opposing this Bill, and I do hope that this Bill will never again see the light of the day in this world. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): Sir, (Loud Applause), at five minutes past four, I got up under the misapprehension that the Raja Bahadur, having taken his seat, had finished. It is now half past four and I should not take up the time of this House for more than a few minutes. Sir, I want to say that, so far as the attitude of the Government and the reasons which have compelled the Government to adopt it are concerned, "I have nothing to add to or subtract from what my Honourable colleague, the Home Member, who is in charge of the Bill, has so very clearly explained to this House. Sir, I remember that in speaking on a question like this, I fulfil a rather complex character. I happen to be a caste Hindu by birth, but, I am sure, some of my Sanatanist friends on the other side will say that, by my deeds or probably by my misdeeds, I am qualified to be a *harijan*. Sir, if that is my position, I feel I am in a place of advantage in being able to appreciate the view-point of both. Sir, within the limited time at my disposal, I do not desire to go into this question at any length whatsoever, but I can assure Honourable Members that, so far as the merits of this question are concerned, namely, as to whether something should not be conceded in order to preserve unity in the community, in order to prevent the growing internecine strife which has divided the community into two parts, in that matter the Mover has my sympathy. On the question of legislation, I would remind my Honourable friend,

Mr. B. Das, who, I counted, mentioned the name of Mr. Gandhi 37 times in eleven minutes, that what he has said about the correct position is this ; this is a quotation from his book "The Hindu Swaraj", by Mr. Gandhi :

"That the decisions of a majority could never be binding on the minority and that all social legislation was the result of the initiative taken by the minorities to convince and convert the majority and, in the long run, when they succeed, the minority becomes a majority and the social legislation follows."

I say, Sir, every word of this is correct, namely, that this is not a matter to be brought up and disposed of on the floor of this House. This is a matter for the Hindu community. They must have sense in them to come to some kind of arrangement, some adjustment by which this strife can be ended. Surely it is not right that legislation, in a religious matter which is opposed by the majority of the community, should be forced down their throats by the votes of a few persons assembled here. (Hear, hear.) Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, also stated that the caste Hindus' heart has not been touched. I admit that. If their heart had been touched, and I wish it had been touched, then we would not have found this volume of opposition to the proposed measure. But would my Honourable friend look a little deeper and answer the question whether the heart of any community has been touched ? What I am referring to is this. As between the untouchables—I am not using the expression in any derogatory sense but just to describe them—in spite of the tremendous campaign which is going on, in spite of the preaching of Mr. Gandhi, has their heart been touched in the matter of untouchability as between the different classes of untouchables ? Do they still, between themselves, observe untouchability ? Has even the fringe of that matter been touched by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings for the last few years ? Sir, I cannot speak of other Provinces, but, in my Province, at the present moment, in spite of all the preaching about untouchability, as between the different sections of the untouchables, they observe untouchability as rigorously, as severely as any high-caste Brahmin ; and if I can give this House an instance of what has happened very recently when one of the temples was thrown open to the Harijans in a spectacular manner, only recently at Jorhat in Assam,—when some of the reformist Hindus—Brahmins and Kayasthas—had assembled there to receive the untouchables, the matter went on smoothly for some time, but when the lowest caste arrived, the people who left that temple in disgust were *not* the high-caste Brahmins and Kayasthas, but other sections of untouchables ! I am pointing this out only for the purpose of showing that the hearts of many people of many other castes have got to be touched. This is a matter which can only be dealt with when popular opinion has changed : and, when that popular opinion has changed, and the vast, preponderating mass of the Hindus want social legislation, then surely that legislation cannot be retarded or obstructed by a microscopic minority. But that is not the situation here. The sentiments which have grown up amongst our people as the result of age-long customs and practices go down deep and cannot be put out of the flesh easily. A sporadic attempt, a violent attack spread over a few months cannot uproot what has been implanted in the minds of the different castes and different communities as the result of what has been happening for the last few centuries. Therefore, Sir, I say to my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das,

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

that it is necessary that popular opinion should change before any legislation should be effected. I am only trying to point out that the time chosen now for this legislation is premature ; there has been no change of heart worth mentioning, and it is no good setting up an attack against caste Hindus as if they alone are adamant, obdurate and bigoted and as if the hearts of all other sections have been changed. Sir, I am not trying to provoke anybody ; I am not trying to blame anybody, but I desire to point out that this is a matter which must require patience and skilful handling. In any attempt which is made to ameliorate the condition of the Depressed Classes, I have always supported them with my fullest co-operation and not by mere lip sympathy. Whatever attempt may be made outside this House for coming to any adjustment or causing—if I may use that hackneyed phrase once again—any change in the heart and the mind of our people, it will have my fullest co-operation, but, I do submit that the floor of this House is not suited for deciding this question. I would like to remind both the parties (because I do not want to take up a partizan attitude on this question), that a victory won on the floor of this House is of little consequence. It will increase the acrimony and the bitterness which now exist and the passions which have been aroused will only be augmented and intensified. I do hope, therefore, that the Honourable the Mover of the Bill will realise that he has discharged his duty. He owes a duty to his society, to his constituents and to himself and he has discharged that duty by having this Bill discussed in this Honourable House before all of us, but having done that, I would beg of him to realise that, having regard to the opposition with which it is being met and having regard to the fact that the vast mass of the community which is going to be affected are violently opposed to this measure, I would beg of him to withdraw this Bill. (Applause.)

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : Sir, at the outset, let me assure my Honourable friend, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, that I have great regard for him, not only for his learning, but also for his age. Moreover, he is a Vaishnavait like myself, and let me also tell him that it is stated in Tirumalay that even a Brahmin versed in Vedas and Shastras, if he thinks or speaks low of his devotee, to whatever caste he may belong, instantly becomes a *pulaya*. The punishment meted out to a Brahmin, however learned he may be, for questioning the caste of a Vaishnavait, however low he may be in birth, is the same as the punishment meted out to him for questioning the substance with which the idol in the temple is made of. Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar has said that God likes everybody. He said that God likes him and Mr. Ghuznavi and I suppose God likes me also.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I never denied that, but Mahatma Gandhi has said that he likes you alone. Therefore, I named other persons whom He also likes. What I said was that the question put to me was an impertinent question.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : If God likes us also, then why deny us entrance into His House ? Let me answer him from the Vaishnavait sacred books. Shri Ramanuja, nearly 900 years ago, called the Depressed Classes Tirukulathars, men belonging to the Holy caste. Do you deny that also ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : No. But it refers to the Tirukulathar of that particular locality and not to the entire 30 millions. If you read the history of Ramanuja you will know whom he called the Tirukulathar. I am glad the Honourable Member has reminded me of it. I should have gone into that question in greater detail.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair would suggest that the Honourable Member, Mr. Rajah, must go on with his speech.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : I am answering some of the points that he has raised, and that is why I said in connection with Nandanar that the Brahmins give different interpretations to the sacred texts as it suits them. In the interests of the peace and order of the Hindu community and in the interests of the stability of the Hindu society, I want my evered friend, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, to make himself bold and courageous to hug the Depressed Classes.

Sir, this morning, three speakers made three appeals to the House. My friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, in his speech appealed to the Sanatanists to build separate temples for the Depressed Classes. Sir, let me tell my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, that the Depressed Classes do not want separate temples for themselves just as they do not want separate electorates.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : May I just ask whether the Honourable Member is speaking for the Depressed Classes, especially the community known as *ezhavas* who are the hierarchy among the Depressed Classes in Malabar ?

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : No, Sir ; I am speaking for the Depressed Classes in general. Moreover, the idea of the Depressed Classes is that they want to enter these temples as an integral part of the Hindu society. I come next to my Honourable friend, the Raja of Kollengode. He appealed to the Government to be neutral in this matter. I welcome that appeal. If only the Government remains neutral, I am sure all the temples will be open to the depressed classes tomorrow. I then come to my friend, Sir Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, who made a welcome appeal to the Depressed Classes to embrace Islam. I am thankful to him for that appeal. We have also considered that question and my friends are of opinion that we should fight to the last to get the entry into the Hindu temples. Next I come to the Honourable the Home Member. Sir, I am very thankful to him for his frank and straightforward reply. I recognise, and my community also recognises, that in the face of voluminous opinion against the Bill, it is not possible for any Government to support a measure of this kind. Moreover, the Honourable the Home Member has mentioned some of the facilities offered to the Depressed Classes in the various Provinces of India. Sir, I have on many occasions, on the floor of this House, thanked the Government for their beneficent activities as regards the Depressed Classes and let me also take this opportunity to say that the elevation of the Depressed Classes in India is due more to His Excellency Lord Willingdon than to any official in India. It was in 1919, when His Excellency was the Governor of Madras, that he inaugurated a Special Department, called the Department of the Protector of the Depressed Classes, which was meant for the amelioration of the condition of the Depressed Classes in that Province. Since that time, that Department had been doing marvellous work. In this

[Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah.]

connection, I should also like to thank the European Christian Missionaries who have taken up this work. They were the first and the foremost in the field and they were the pioneers in the amelioration work for the Depressed Classes in India. Sir, we are thankful to Government for giving us civic and political privileges and I sincerely hope that the Government will continue to do even greater things for us.

Sir, Mr. Ranga Iyer suggested that there should be a combined car festival in various localities. But, may I inform my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, that without the help of the Depressed Classes the car festivals cannot take place.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I was referring to the car festival that takes place in Palghat.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : I am referring to the car festival that takes place throughout India. It is a device, I think, made by the so-called high caste Hindus to allow these Depressed Classes to pull the ropes of the car because they are not strong enough to pull the car themselves. Moreover, it is said that a Brahmin who pulls the rope along with the Depressed Classes should not and ought not to bathe when he goes home because there is no pollution there.

An Honourable Member : Brahmins do not pull the car.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : They do and they do touch the rope.

Now, Sir, coming to the merits of the Bill, I should like to make a few observations. Sir, all adverse comments are based on the assumption that the Bill threw open the temples to the Depressed Classes. Nothing of the kind is proposed to be adopted in this Bill. The Bill only makes a provision for a machinery to find out the wishes of the people in the matter. The Bill does not interfere with religion at all. If, in any locality, the caste Hindu worshippers come to believe that they could open the temples to the Depressed Classes, then the Bill enables them to do so. It is merely a Temple Entry Local Option Bill. It is argued by my Honourable friend, the Rajah Bahadur, that by admitting the Depressed Classes into temples the purity of the idol will be defiled and polluted.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : That is the opinion from which I quoted.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : If temples are spiritual power houses and places of purity and sanctity, then they cannot be polluted by the presence of the Depressed Classes. On the other hand by being allowed to come to the presence of God, the Depressed Classes will be purified and spiritualised. (Hear, hear.) If the idea that purity is one which will be affected be correct, then such a powerless purity is not worth anything at all. When Saint Tiruppanalwar was taken to Srirangam temple, the idol was not considered to have been polluted. When the Muhammadan Princess died at the feet of the idol at Malekot, the idol was not considered to have been polluted. As a matter of fact, an image of her was made and installed under the feet of the idol of Ramapriya for daily worship as Tulukka Nachiar (Muhammadan Goddess Consort). A similar idol for this goddess is in the Srirangam temple. Sir, temples are the home of God and in God's home nobody

could be treated as an untouchable, since God is the common Father of all. (Hear, hear.) The Hindu temples play a most important part in the life of the masses. Among the Hindus there is more devotion to God than in any other people, and, in the lower classes especially, the devotion is stronger than in the higher classes. Though this devotion may be blind, yet it is powerful. Temple worship as an institution came into existence for the purpose of providing for the community as a whole a mode of approach to the Supreme, suitable to the understanding of the unintellectual and unphilosophically minded. To men of higher understanding going to a temple is absolutely of no value; as my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, himself had said. When these go to a temple and discharge a function connected with it, they do so for the benefit of the community as a whole. So, I ask, why keep out the real men for whom all this is intended and enacted? Why then rob the lowly among you of what is their due by right of true benefit? Is temple worship not the worship of the Almighty God? Did the God of the Universe disclose His form only for some specified classes to the exclusion of others? Is there no room for real worship on the part of these simple devotees? Are there not innumerable instances where such prohibitions have not been put into practice? Many of the Saints of South India have been originally persons of the Depressed Classes and have been admitted into the temple and the idols of some of them are now being worshipped by the most orthodox Brahmin. I tell you, Sir, to decline wholesale spiritual food to the poor innocent people is a great crime against God and Humanity for which you shall have to answer before the Lord Who makes no distinction between the members of His creation. You say that the campaign should be diverted towards the removal of their economic disabilities. Yes, that is true. The question of temple entry is only one of the many items in the campaign for the eradication of the curse of untouchability. What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? Sir, his economic uplift depends solely on the elevation of the social or caste status. The economic part of the problem had to deal with the effects of this evil which are showing themselves solely by reason of the custom of untouchability. If untouchability is corrected, the economic uplift would follow. The opening of temples to the Depressed Classes will give a new life and a new hope to them. You call them unclean. Their unclean habits are entirely due to you, as you keep them away and give them unclean quarters and not give them light, water, enough to drink and bathe. You are the sinners. You have degraded them and then have the audacity to use their very degradation against their rise. Not contented with your past unrighteous actions, you have now the audacity to say that they are not anxious for the reforms. In judging a community and its aspirations you should realise that it speaks through the most enlightened of its members. Sir, in this connection my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, has quoted some opinion from one Mr. Ratnavelu Pillai who, he says, holds the position of a District Judge. Equally eminent men of the same standing have given quite contrary opinions. Does he accept those opinions also?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I was not speaking of my own opinion. I was only quoting his opinion about Nandanar.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : I am not giving way.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Then why do you put questions ?

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : I am not at all asking for answers from my Honourable friend. I am simply meeting the points raised by my Honourable friend. I hope he will not be excited. Another thing I wish to say is that my Honourable friend just now said that the Depressed Classes think that their going into the Hindu temples will upset their whole family life and so on. He also said that the Depressed Classes say that they would be visited by diseases if they enter a Hindu Temple. Sir, this reminds me of a story which I am sure you, Sir, also know. In a village there was a Depressed Class man who was serving under a zamindar. The wife of this Depressed Class man gave birth to a son and his father christened the child as "Perumal", meaning God. Then one day the zamindar went to the village and heard the father of the boy calling his son as "Perumal". The zamindar was taken aback. He asked the Depressed Class man as to what he meant by calling his boy as "Perumal". He said : "You, fellow, give your son some other name. If you call him 'Perumal' the wrath of God will be on you and the boy will die tomorrow. So call him by some other name, such as black or white or mud or clay or anything else". The Depressed Class man was an intelligent fellow and next day he called his son 'Peria Perumal' meaning Great God. Next day when the zamindar went to that village to see his Depressed Class servant, he was non-plussed to find that his son was called 'Peria Perumal'. Similarly, my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, says that if the Depressed Classes go to a temple they will be infested with all sorts of diseases. Sir, I have got very little time now and so I cannot narrate at this late hour all the anecdotes that I have got in my possession. I am very sorry to say that these so-called Sanatanists do not know these people. One who had moved with these untouchables in their chervis, mohallas and slums would have found in them dissatisfaction of their lot ranking in their hearts, a really burning desire and an unquenchable thirst for their amelioration—their education, economic advance and the satisfaction of their spiritual hunger. In this connection, with reference to the quotation which my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, gave from Mr. Ratnavelu Pillai's opinion, let me also tell the Raja Bahadur that a great seer, the Saint Ramanuja, nearly 900 years ago, hugged the Depressed Classes. Sri Ramanuja's heart surged with love and compassion for these unfortunate people. Ramanuja devoted himself entirely to the service of the Lord by serving man. His own image and has always been a friend of the poor, the needy and the helpless and genuinely interested in the redemption of all the down-trodden. It was he that first worked for the amelioration of their condition and it was he that first wanted to take them into his fold. Sir, these episodes are somewhat worthy of note. Ramanuja specially warned his disciples against pride of caste, pride of wealth and pride of learning as the three great dangers for the unwary to fall into perdition. When Ramanuja was old and weak, he used to lean on somebody's shoulders and walk into the river for his daily ablutions. While going to the bath he used to lean on one of his Brahmin disciples but while returning after his bath he would walk leaning on the shoulder of one of his Depressed Class disciples. The orthodox people were greatly incensed at this practice. They said he may lean on this low caste man before bath but why should he lean on him after bath. Ramanuja said, "I lean on this

low-born person when returning after ablutions because this is the way to wash off my pride of birth which I cannot remove by ablution with water.

Sir, how different from the superstitions of his present day followers ! It is an irony of history that among those who claim to represent Sri Ramanuja's authority and to follow the creed of Ramanuja are some of the stoutest opponents to the movement which he initiated 900 years ago.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair does not mind sitting a little longer today as this is the last day, but the Chair would advise the Honourable Member to finish his speech as soon as possible.

5 P.M.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah : Very good, Sir. This one episode is enough. I have many with me. Raja Bahadur being a Vaishnavite he must know them. We have been witnessing, Sir, during the past few months a tidal wave on the surface of Hindu life, Sanatanists holding meetings throughout the country vehemently opposing this measure, to thwart and defeat the legitimate demands of a vast majority of their fellow caste-men. Sir, I welcome this unrest among the Sanatanists. It is a part of the plan of the world that some kind of unrest should be the precursor of everything that is most useful and beneficent. Just call to mind how the setting in of the rains which are needful for the support of every form of life and of all that makes natural life enjoyable is always preceded by storm or other forms of atmospheric disturbance. I cherish indeed the hope that it may be instrumental in making India what the God of all the nations intends it to become. The fact that a cause is righteous does not guarantee its immediate success. All history testifies to this. The final triumph of good causes is for the most part long delayed. Even should our path immediately before us be marked not only by delay but by disaster for a time, I am quite confident that our cause will conquer in the end. I trust that it will conquer in our own hands, but even if it does not, yet in worthier hands than ours hereafter.

I shall conclude by telling this House the chief ground on which my confidence is based. "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Observe that this promise to the meek is not of some mystical possession in the clouds, it is not even the Kingdom of Heaven. That also may be theirs, but what the saying tells of is the inheritance, the possession, the rule and the guardianship of this familiar earth. Sir, man looketh on the countenance, but God looketh on the heart. Lincoln, when he overheard a woman in the crowd exclaim, "Why, what a common looking fellow he is !", retorted, "God likes common looking fellows or he would not have made so many of them !".

Sir, the greatest religion is the religion of love. That is the be-all and end-all of all Vaishnavism, that is the creed of Shaivites too. Disinterested service to one's fellowmen is the essence of the message of Madhava to mankind. You probably remember, Sir, the story of Abu Ben Adhem. He awoke one night from a deep dream of peace and saw within his room the beautiful vision of an angel writing something in a book of gold. When asked what she was writing, the angle replied, "The names of those who love the Lord". "And is mine one ?" asked

[Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah.]

Abu. "Nay, not so", said the angel. "Then write me down as one that loves his fellow men" said Abu. The angel wrote and departed. When next night she returned and showed the names of those whom the love of God had blessed, lo ! Abu Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

Sir, in conclusion, let me remind this House that the first efforts of the man who means to build a tower is directed not upward but downward. He digs out deep foundations before he puts a single stone or brick upon brick. If he acted otherwise he could never have a tower to show. That is what we have done now and I hope on a future occasion a measure of this kind will be passed.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, on the courageous stand that he has taken for the Depressed Classes. That is the best answer that can be given to the speech of the Honourable the Home Member, who took, in the course of his closely reasoned and highly interesting speech, the trouble of quoting more Governments than one that the Depressed Classes were not enthusiastic about this Bill. It will be very difficult for caste Hindus to fight the battle of the Depressed Classes. The Home Member was perfectly right when he said that there has not been sufficient enthusiasm among the Depressed Classes. I hope Rao Bahadur Rajah who can speak with greater authority than I on the question of the Depressed Classes all over India will devote his attention with greater interest and greater enthusiasm to the cause, so that, if this Bill were to come before this House even for an academic discussion, the Honourable the Home Member may be in a position to say that what he thought was true then has changed now a new situation has arisen. Sir, at present I believe with the Home Member that sufficient fire has not been kindled among the hearths as well as in the hearts of the Depressed Classes, and there is no use standing on the floor of the House for Rao Bahadur Rajah to say to you what happens all over India. I cannot speak except for Malabar and I have no ambition of working outside Malabar after a fairly long all-India career. He talked of the "blessed" who "are the meek". I would rather remind him that blessed are they who have a will and I congratulate Rao Bahadur Rajah on having shown to us that he has a will. I hope his will will become infectious, and if it becomes infectious, they who have a will will also have their way.

Now, coming to my friend, Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, I am very glad he took up the cudgels against Sir Muhammad Yakub, not because I agree with him, but because I was very glad to find that the Raja Bahadur was not happy that the proselytising Muslim should snatch away the children of Hinduism. I do not blame Sir Muhammad Yakub at all. If I were a Muslim, I would carry on a tearing, raging, campaign in the country and annex all the children of Hinduism who are called Depressed Classes to Islam. Then a future Muslim leader would say that they must have half the total representation in the services instead of one-third ; and it is for the Hindus who say that their rights are not properly recognised, who say that their claims are ignored, who complain that Government are becoming more and more pro-Muslim, to see to it that this ascription of inferiority that they have cast upon the Depressed Classes in actual practice is removed.

That badge of inferiority to which the Honourable the Law Member referred in his beautiful and impressive speech has got to be removed. I

was pleased to listen to the advice of the Honourable the Law Member. I am quite willing to follow that advice which the Honourable the Home Member and my friend the Raja Sahib of Kollengode had already given and that advice is this : when the Hindu community is ablaze, when the opposition is uncompromising, there is no use forcing a piece of legislation like this through the House, even if there was a chance for it. At present, I am sure the Honourable the Home Member is not going to accept the dictum of the Mahatma that Christians and Muslims should not take part in this discussion, much less when the voting takes place. The Honourable the Home Member will be perfectly entitled, if I press it to a division, to vote against my Bill ; he is not going to be guided in this matter by Mahatma Gandhi's dictum as his speech has made clear, and, therefore, the Congress people, instead of issuing mandates to us, will have to take a mandate from the people when their Constituent Assembly comes into existence. Meantime, I think, we Hindus who want to keep the untouchables within the fold will also have to show to them that they are one of us.

Sir, I congratulate Mr. Gunjal on his very strong speech. I cannot accuse Mr. Gunjal of less sincerity than myself : I think probably he said he was more sincere. I am prepared to grant that in the hope, as he believes, that the untouchables should remain within the Hindu fold he will devise some better plan if my plan is bad and keep them within the fold.

Mr. Das quoted Justice Macpherson and that quotation gives a point of contact between the Honourable the Law Member and Mr. Das himself, because what does Justice Macpherson want ? He says : " Do not have an eye-wash like the Sarda Act. Have a really good Bill which will do away with untouchability ", and this leads us to what the Honourable the Home Member said and what Mr. Rajagopalachariar has written : here the point of contact between the Congress leader and the Home Member is complete : both of them say " To go further bring a mandate from the people ". Without a mandate, I am convinced, in view of the terrible opposition that we find in the opinions obtained by circulation, that we have no right to proceed with this Bill. This is the fag end not only of a dying Session, but of a dying Assembly, which is already afflicted with the premonitory lethargy of death (Laughter), and so this will not be the proper time to proceed with this Bill, nor can this Assembly's successor proceed with this Bill. Everyone who happens to be a Member of this House will have to oppose the resurrection of this Bill, because on the Congress people's own finding, they must come with a mandate ; and they can only create that mandate—and here I am in complete agreement with the Honourable the Home Member—by propaganda and persuasion, and the Depressed Classes themselves will have to rise from the grave of depression and fight their own battles. Men like myself who believe in the removal of depression will stand by them.

The Honourable the Home Member concluded with a quotation from Bacon : probably he thought this piece of legislation was draconian : he was quoting from Bacon, what has been put in poetry by Tennyson :

" The minds of men are moulded by the process of the sun."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : What happens to the motion ?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Has the Honourable Member the leave of the Assembly to withdraw his motion ?

Several Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré (Leader of the House) : It was agreed, Sir, at a meeting of Party Leaders convened by yourself on Tuesday last that business should be so arranged as to admit of the termination of the Session not later than Friday, the 31st August. To facilitate this object, it was agreed that all stages of the Steel and Iron Duties Bill should be concluded before the House rises on Saturday. If effect is given to this arrangement, the outstanding legislative business for next week will consist of the remaining stages of the Indian Army (Amendment) Bill and of the Indian Navy Discipline Bill, the report of the Select Committee on which will, I hope, be presented on Saturday, and the consideration and passing of the two uncontroversial Bills not yet introduced, the first of which makes a number of amendments in the Indian Statute Book, which are purely consequential on the position which would be created by the enactment of the Navy Discipline Bill and the second of which meets the desire which has been generally and strongly expressed by Members of the Assembly for the consolidation of the Indian Tariff Act. The first of these Bills will, I hope, be introduced on Saturday and the second on Monday next. The Assembly will also be asked, during the course of next week, to vote a few supplementary and excess grants and to take into consideration the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee for the years, 1931-32 and 1932-33. It was agreed at the meeting of Party Leaders, to which I have referred, that the report of the Committee on the working of the Ottawa Agreements will not be discussed during the current Session.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 25th August, 1934.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 25th August, 1934.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

DEATH OF SIR GORDON FRASER.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore (Leader of the House) : Sir, death has once again been busy and has taken from us an old Member of this Assembly, Sir Gordon Fraser. I had not the pleasure of knowing Sir Gordon Fraser personally, but he was a Member, I understand, of the first Assembly, and he took a prominent part in the debates of that Assembly putting forward ably and forcibly the business and financial aspects of question which came before the House from the point of view of the Chamber which he represented in the Assembly. Sir Gordon Fraser represented a very old and well-known business house in Madras. He was, as I think old Members of this Assembly know, suffering from a serious malady in recent years, but what stood out above everything else was his great devotion to duty despite the physical disability from which he was labouring. I am sure, this country and the business community generally in India have suffered a great loss by this demise, and I hope, Sir, that you will convey to his relatives the sense of loss which we feel in this Assembly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, on behalf of the Independent Party and myself, I associate with all that fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House. It is really our misfortune that the list of our old Members is getting thinner and thinner. I had not the pleasure of knowing the late Sir Gordon Fraser, but I had heard a good deal about his interest in public life and work in the old Assembly. His loss is really a great one to the business community in India and specially the European community, and I sympathise with the family of the deceased.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it is my melancholy duty to associate myself and my friends, who are sitting on this side of the House, with all that has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House. It has been rightly pointed out that death has been very busy recently in thinning the ranks of our old Members. I had the pleasure of the acquaintance of this gentleman, and, from all that I have seen and heard of him and his work in the old Assembly, his death is really very regrettable, as he was a very valued Member of this House, I join my friends in requesting you, Sir, to convey to the members of the family of the deceased the expression of our sincere regret and sorrow at his death.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I associate the Centre Party and myself with all that has fallen from the previous speakers about the sad demise of Sir Gordon

[Mr. N. N. Anklesaria.]

Fraser, and I support the proposal to send our sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved family.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, I had the pleasure of knowing the late Sir Gordon Fraser when he was a Member of the second Assembly in 1924 and 1925 and represented the European business community of the Southern Presidency. As head of the well-known firm of Messrs. Best and Company, Sir Gordon Fraser was a notable commercial magnate of Madras, and when he came to this House, he brought to bear upon all financial and commercial questions his deep knowledge of trade and commerce whenever we had to deal with those questions. Sir Gordon Fraser was a quiet man. He was suffering from a malady against which he fought manfully during all the years that malady haunted him. Sir, it is a melancholy fact that the angel of death has been busy with so many notable Members of this House, and I wish to associate myself and my Party in the vote of condolence that has been proposed by the Honourable the Leader of the House.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay : European) : Sir, I associate myself and my Party with the request of the Honourable the Leader of the House that you should send the sympathies and condolence of this House to the relatives of the late Sir Gordon Fraser. I have known the late Sir Gordon Fraser for a good many years. He was, as has already been said, one of the leaders of commercial activities in Madras. He was President of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, and in every sphere of social and commercial activity he was one of the most prominent personalities and he was respected by Europeans and Indians throughout Southern India. He was looked up to for advice and counsel by all those who knew him personally, not only in Southern India, but also elsewhere. It was a sincere source of pleasure to me to meet him whenever he passed through Bombay, and his unfortunate demise is a great loss to the European community.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I associate the Chair with the tribute that has been paid to the memory of the late Sir Gordon Fraser. I had the privilege of knowing the late Sir Gordon Fraser for the last 15 years. He was a very highly respected business magnate of Madras, and he was greatly popular both in the European and Indian commercial community of Madras. Honourable Members who were in the Second Legislative Assembly might remember the quiet and dignified manner in which Sir Gordon Fraser intervened in debates and discharged his duties as a Member of this Assembly. His death removes one who was a connecting link between the Indian and European business community of India, and it will be my duty to convey to the family of the late Sir Gordon Fraser the sympathy of this House.

THE INDIAN NAVY (DISCIPLINE) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy.

THE AMENDING BILL.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain enactments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend certain enactments.”

The motion was adopted.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, I introduce the Bill :

THE INDIAN IRON AND STEEL DUTIES BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the Indian Iron and Steel Duties Bill.

The question is :

“ That the Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. Shafee Daoodi has got an amendment in Supplementary List No. 1. Is he going to move it ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : Yes, Sir.

Sir, I beg to move :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (i), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘ British India ’ be omitted.”

According to my amendment the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (i) will read as follows :

“ 1½ times the excise duty leviable for the time being on steel ingots produced in British India ”,

and a full stop after that, and no more. The object of this amendment might have been clear to the Honourable Members of this House. It is nothing more than that there should be no duty whatever on galvanised sheets. We had enough of discussion on this point that these sheets are mostly used by the agriculturists in the villages to shelter themselves against cold and rain. These people, as everybody knows, have been hard hit on account of depression, more especially in Bengal and Assam and Bihar, in Bengal and Assam because of their jute crop going down and in Bihar because all the houses have gone down and the people have got to make their houses mostly with galvanised sheets. The ordinary man cannot do without it. At the present moment, it is rather more necessary that we should have no duty whatever on galvanised sheets. I am supported in my view by the recent report of the Tariff Board. They say at page 62, paragraph 107 :

“ We have based our proposals on the system of differential duties embodied in the Steel Industry (Protection) Act. We have received no complaint in this enquiry that this system has resulted in any hardship either to the steel industry or to users of steel or that its working has presented any difficulties. We see therefore no reason to consider any change in the present system. The duties under our scheme of protection are based generally on the current market prices of British and Continental steel. In the case of galvanised sheets, however, we have estimated the duties on a different basis. Since November, 1932, the price of galvanised sheets

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

has been fixed at an artificial level under the Ottawa Agreement. No direct information is therefore available regarding the level of market prices under ordinary competitive conditions and our estimate of market prices has in consequence to be based on somewhat arbitrary considerations."

This is my main point that these arbitrary considerations should not now weigh with this House. Circumstances have changed. Then, they go on to say :

"Two alternative methods have been open to us, first, to take the average price in the earlier half of 1932 and adjust it for the variation in the price of spelter since that period, and secondly, to proceed on the basis of calculation adopted by the Ottawa delegation, namely, to take the United Kingdom price at the lowest figure which the delegation considered would give a reasonable return to the British manufacturer and to take the Continental price at the lowest figure actually reached in recent importations. Under ordinary conditions we should be inclined to adopt the first method in estimating the measure of protection. The United Kingdom prices in that case would be almost the same as Continental prices and there would be no scope for differential duties."

This is the sentence on which I rely very greatly :

"We have however decided to adopt the other method which is calculated to give the British manufacturer a definite advantage consistently with the interests of the Indian industry. Our object in doing so is to maintain as far as is now possible the principle of reciprocity underlying the Ottawa Agreement relating to galvanised sheets."

Here is the Report of the Imperial Economic Conference, Ottawa, 1932. At page 49, at the end, there is a clause No. 4, within brackets. It speaks about the iron and steel industry and it says :

"These arrangements (*arrangements under the Ottawa Agreement so far as the iron and steel industry is concerned*) to remain in force until action is taken by the Government of India following the next statutory Tariff enquiry in India into the iron and steel industry."

This statutory Tariff enquiry has been made and its report is in our hands, and, therefore, there is no use having that Agreement in view in imposing a duty on galvanised sheets. I have not found anything in the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Member, who has sponsored this Bill, as to why the Tariff Board's report should not be on the lines I have just submitted, that is, because the statutory Tariff Board report is in our hands we should not now take into consideration the Agreement made some time before according to the terms of this report, and we should leave the galvanised sheets manufactured either in the United Kingdom or outside the United Kingdom at the same level and we should not put any import duty on either of them. Leave the galvanised sheets to come to India freely and let the Tatas compete with the foreign galvanised sheets without any protection whatsoever. Sir, we have been hearing from the Honourable the Commerce Member and other Members on the Treasury Benches that the whole scheme is intended to give the consumers the very best advantage that is possible to give them. Here I am putting forth the case of agriculturists who are hard pressed at the moment and who require these necessities of life at the very lowest possible prices, and if the Treasury Benches will take into consideration the needs and necessities of the time, they would not put any duty on any galvanised sheet. Let the manufacturers of galvanised sheets either in the United Kingdom or on the Continent or in India compete among themselves and see which of them can give the commodity to the people at the lowest possible figure. Therefore, I move this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
Amendment moved :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (i), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘ British India ’ be omitted.”

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I oppose this amendment. Sir, my Honourable friend has relied upon one passage in the Tariff Board’s report on page 62, which he has just read out :

“ Under ordinary conditions we should be inclined to adopt the first method in estimating the measure of protection. The United Kingdom prices in that case would be almost the same as Continental prices and there would be no scope for differential duties.”

This was the first course which the Tariff Board wanted to adopt. The first is to take into consideration the landed prices in the first half of the year 1932. In that case, they said that the prices of British galvanised sheets would be the same as the price of continental galvanised sheets. Sir, the Tariff Board has found that the prices of continental galvanised sheets imported without duty is about Rs. 130 per ton, and they have calculated the fair selling price of the galvanised sheets produced in India at Rs. 160, and they have added Rs. ten for the freight and other charges to the port and thus they have arrived at Rs. 40 as the proper import duty to be levied on continental goods. If, according to the calculation of the Tariff Board which my Honourable friend approved, the price of British goods is the same as the price of continental goods, then automatically we have to impose Rs. 40 as protective duty as against British goods also. So, the passage which my friend has just quoted is very unhappy to strengthen his contention. He further goes to the extent of suggesting to remove the revenue duties also proposed on these galvanised sheets. The second passage which he seeks to delete is “ ten per cent. *ad valorem* whichever is higher ”. He wants to remove that duty also and this goes beyond what the Tariff Board has estimated as the fair measure of protection to Indian industry, and, if this duty is removed, it will greatly handicap the production of galvanised sheets by the Tata industries who want to open another unit also to produce galvanised sheets necessary for the consumption of the whole of India. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I rise to support the amendment which I am doing in the name of poorer people of Bengal, Burma and the earthquake stricken areas of Bihar and I am speaking in the name of those who are not speaking for themselves. I request and I appeal that at least in this particular article we ought to consider the interests of the consumer and not altogether the interests of the manufacturer. Sir, this is a question on which we have been having a discussion for the last ten years, and in all these actions and reports, we had only one thing in mind and that is the interest of the manufacturer, but since this is an article which is used by the poorer class and it is not used by the richer people, I do appeal that they should remember the interests of the poorer people in this case as well without at the same time giving any loss to the manufacturers. The principle I would lay down is that we should give a reasonable profit and not very high profits. I draw attention to the graph given in the report ; the consumption of this particular article moved identically with the price level of jute.

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

The more money people get from their jute the greater will be the demand for these corrugated iron sheets to build the houses and if the price of jute falls down the people really could not afford to get these corrugated iron sheets and they will have to live in great discomfort. It is an article which is almost as important as food and on it depends the health of the residents of Eastern Bengal. We know that there is a good deal of malaria. They do not get enough food, and if they do not get enough shelter, they will be in great danger, and, I think, in their interest, it is desirable that we should not charge any exorbitant price for this particular article.

I draw the attention of the House to graph 3 on page 174 of the report, and there we find that for the first two years the consumption of these sheets rise in sympathy with the prices of jute. When the price of jute began to fall, then the consumption of this article began to remain steady and it rose to the figure of 338 thousand and when the prices continued to increase, there was a sudden drop in the consumption. So the drop in the consumption is due to two facts, first the abnormal increase in the price of corrugated iron sheets and the abnormal fall in the prices of agricultural products, particularly cereals and jute. Therefore, looking at this from this point of view, we should see how it can be checked. Now, if we reduce the price, the consumption would increase. The consumption has now fallen to about 115 thousand tons per annum, which is really an enormous fall compared with the maximum of 338 thousand tons every year. Now, I will just give from these figures the cost of production of these sheets, which is Rs. 109 per ton. Then, if we add to it all the overhead charges *plus* depreciation and only allow them ten per cent. profit and not the profit of about eight per cent. on capital, then the fair selling price at Tatanagar would come to Rs. 144 per ton. To this may be added the excise duty of four per cent. Then the price at Tatanagar will be approximately Rs. 148, that is to say Rs. 150. Therefore, they could sell it at Rs. 150 at Tatanagar and get the profit of ten per cent. on the works cost and this is the price at which they can get. Now, again the price at which the British article is imported in Bombay is Rs. 160, without duty. So that we can sell these corrugated iron sheets at Rs. 160, and Tatas will have a decided protection of Rs. 10 per ton, over and above this ten per cent. profit because they will sell it at the price at which the things are landed in Bombay without paying duty. So if we accept the amendment of my friend, Mr. Shafee Daoodi, and sell the articles at Rs. 160 per ton, then the Tatas will get a ten per cent. profit on the work cost *plus* Rs. ten per ton on account of the difference between Rs. 150 and Rs. 160. Therefore, if we remove the duty on British goods, I think it is exceedingly reasonable and nobody would suffer. The loss of the Government would be only say Rs. ten on the imported British goods, which will not be an enormous sum but, corresponding to that, the compensating advantages to the poorer people of India will be enormously great and quite out of proportion to the small advantage which will be gained by Government from this small duty; and remembering, that by putting this small duty of Rs. ten per ton we are raising the price of all the corrugated iron sheets manufactured in this country as well, and looking at the matter from all points of view, I urge that in this

case at least we ought to fix Rs. 160 as the reasonable price of galvanized iron sheets ; and by so doing, we can safely omit the duty altogether and reduce the price from Rs. 178 or Rs. 180 or Rs. 215 to the reasonable figure of Rs. 160. There is one thing more which I would like to point out. If we reduce the sale price to Rs. 160, then the demand will go up. At the present moment the demand is 115,000 tons. The lower the price, the higher will the demand go up and we know that the profit, though smaller, will be repeated several times and the total margin of profit will certainly be greater ; and, therefore, in this case there will be no loss to the manufacturers, and there is a very slight loss to the Government revenues, but provided that the profit to the poorer people, particularly of these three Provinces which I have just mentioned, will be enormous, I beg to appeal again, in the interests of the poorer people of this country, that the cost of this particular article should be reduced without seriously injuring the manufacturer. Sir, I beg to support the motion.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I want to support this motion moved by my Honourable friend, the Maulana of Daudnagar. (Hear, hear.) The matter is of vital importance particularly to the poorer people of Bihar, who, as my Honourable friends know so well, have suffered so tremendously from the effects of the devastating earthquake, and, in this connection, we must also take due note of the fact that that area has been declared to be liable to earthquakes in the near future also, for which reason the people there are building their houses with these corrugated galvanized sheets. Apart from this, now-a-days the agriculturists are making so many articles of these galvanized iron sheets that it has become a necessity for them. They make " Karengs " and other apparatus for lifting water and they use it for other necessities as well. Some of this requires always to be dipped into water from the wells, and for all these reasons they require a large quantity of galvanized sheets ; and, I think, Government must consider this question very seriously, in the interests of the agriculturists, and, more especially, in the interests of the people of the area so badly affected by the earthquake and to whom they themselves have so very generously extended their sympathy. Sir, if, on the other hand, they will reject this amendment, the result will be that the price of galvanized sheets will go up by rupees ten a ton. For all these reasons, I support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I am afraid my Honourable friend, the Mover, has paid little or no attention to the previous debates on this question. This question of galvanized sheets has been most carefully and exhaustively dealt with by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and also by myself, and in quoting the Tariff Board's remarks on this particular point, I am afraid my friend has entirely ignored the explanation which we gave and the facts that we adduced in support of our contention that those remarks should not be taken as conclusive in coming to a conclusion. (*Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi* : " Where " ?) My Honourable friend will, if he will only refer to the debates of the past few days, realize that what I have said is the fact. I must remind my Honourable friend that after all this is a protective

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

measure, and the effect of his proposal will be entirely to remove the protection on galvanized sheets. I cannot for one moment, Sir, accept the alternative fair selling price worked out by my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, in preference to the fair selling price found by the Tariff Board : and, if we adhere to the fair selling price found by the Tariff Board, *viz.*, Rs. 170 a ton, we have no option but to accept the rates of duty which are embodied in this Bill. I fully sympathize with my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, in his desire to see us do all we can for the agriculturist, and, I am sure that the effect of his speech has been to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend, Mr. Reddi, a fact of which he seemed to be ignorant, that galvanized sheets are very largely used by the agricultural population in certain parts of India. But with reference to what my Honourable friend opposite said in regard to Bihar, I would point out that while we all sympathize greatly with Bihar and the agriculturist of Bihar, the proper method of helping him is not by reducing this duty ; there is another and more effective way of coming to his assistance without entirely destroying the whole scheme of protection embodied in this Bill. I would like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, that what we are doing is we are reducing the duty on galvanized sheets by something like Rs. 43 a ton. As I pointed out in my speech the other day, this would have the effect, assuming the consumption to be the same as it was last year, of reducing the burden upon the consumer to the extent of something like Rs. 48 lakhs a year. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (i), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘ British India ’ be omitted.”

The motion was negatived.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (ii), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘ British India ’ be omitted.”

Sir, I feel very strongly that this is a case in which the Honourable the Commerce Member is not paying due attention to the needs of the situation, and what he has said just now does not convince me at all as to the necessity of imposing a protective duty on this commodity as well. He says that he has justified it on previous occasions. I am very sorry I have not been able to find out anywhere how he has justified the imposition of a protective duty on galvanized sheets. What he says about the Tariff Board's fixing a fair selling price is certainly to be understood in the sense in which my friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has just now pointed it out. They have in their report, which I have just now read, definitely said that, had there been no Ottawa Agreement on this question, they would have dealt with this commodity in a different way. Now on that question I do not find that the Honourable the Leader of the House, who is in charge of the Bill, has given any explanation whatsoever. I know that I am not an expert in dealing with the figures of which there are a great mass here, and the Honourable the

Commerce Member might take advantage of it and he might not try to convince us as to what justification he has in regard to this point ; further, because we have not got in this House Members representing the great mass of consumers in this country, therefore he may also think that he need not bother about what I have been saying on behalf of the poor consumer. I realize that I am in a hopeless minority in this House, and, therefore, all my submissions may be thrown to the winds. But that is a different matter. I do feel very strongly that on this question the Honourable the Commerce Member should have shown great consideration to the interests of the great mass of the people who are at present under the necessity of greater protection than the Tatas who will neither starve nor die if no protection is given to them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (ii), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘ British India ’ be omitted.”

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir, I rise to oppose this amendment. (Laughter.) My reasons for doing so are very simple. The degree to which the previous amendment was reasonable, I think, to the same degree this amendment is unreasonable and absurd. I am one of those who think that we should use our own goods, manufactured by our men in our motherland made of our raw materials. Further, I am a believer in free trade without giving preference to some countries. Our country should be able to carry on its trade without giving preference to any country. My Honourable colleague has suggested that the words after the words “ British India ” be omitted. May I ask, has he realised the result ? Has he understood the amendment ? Has he imagined its consequence ? The result will be that the words “ *plus Rs. 40 per ton* ” will be omitted if this amendment is accepted, and the result of this amendment will be that preference will be given to those foreign articles which are not of British manufacture, because for all articles of British manufacture, there will be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times excise duty *plus Rs. ten per ton extra*, and, for those articles which are not of British manufacture, there will be only $1\frac{1}{2}$ times excise duty which is leviable for the time being on steel imports in British India. I want to know from my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, what is the reward he is taking for India from those countries to whom he wants to give preference ? What is the reason to prefer continental goods and to kill Indian industry ? I am not in favour of giving preference to Great Britain, and I cannot prefer continental goods as well. We have given preference to the United Kingdom, because they have also, under the Ottawa Agreement and other agreements, agreed to give certain preferences to us. Sir, I am not for giving preference to those countries which are not within the United Kingdom and which have not given any preference to India. When these countries have not given us any preference, why should we give them any preference ? So, I think, this is not a reasonable amendment, and the whole House will agree with me on this point and will unanimously oppose it.

Further, Sir, I want to know one point from my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, who has just spoken and who said that that was not the way to help the Province of Bihar, but that there

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

were other ways for helping that part of the country. I want to know what does he mean by that and how does he want to help my Province ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : If my Honourable friend will contribute to His Excellency the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund !

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : All the receipts of the Government are contributions from us, I think the Viceroy's Fund or the Congress Fund are insufficient help for that part of the country, and I appeal to Government in this connection that they should make use of the power which they have to reduce the duty by their executive order. Sir, Government must consider their position again and they must find out some other means to help the agriculturists and the earthquake sufferers. If they decide this question, *i.e.*, to reduce the duty on iron sheets, galvanised and ungalvanised, by executive order, they will at least be able to give some relief to the agriculturist. Sir, I oppose the amendment moved by Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi, which is bad in principle and injurious in merits.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : Sir, Mr. Maswood Ahmad has certainly made a point by showing some inaccuracies in the wordings of this amendment of Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi. It is certainly logically correct that if we accept *in toto* the Maulana's amendment, then the continental producers will get a greater advantage and will dump their goods, and, thus, they will not only compete against the British manufacturers but will kill the Indian industry as well. But the main point that he wanted to make in this House and in connection with which he made a special appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member was to explain that the figures that were adopted by the Tariff Board and the figures that we are asked to accept as sacrosanct without any question, were the figures that were obtained 18 months before, at the time of the Ottawa Agreement or perhaps even earlier. What the Maulana wants to be assured of is that these figures were not arrived at recently and therefore they are practically of no use to us now. My friend, Mr. Reddi, the other day quoted extensively and he was quoting from some publication of the Tatas to show that the figures that were accepted by the Tariff Board were not to be relied on for our present purposes. Sir, the Maulana, quoting from the Report of the Tariff Board, showed that at present there is not the same difference nor the same cost of production in the manufacture of galvanised sheets in the continent or in the British Isles. The main argument on this side of the House is that we want the consumers to get the best advantage out of it. We certainly realise that that the Tatas must be protected. Our purpose is that the protection of Tatas will ultimately mean cheaper goods for the consumers. So, on principle, we are not against giving protection to the Tatas ; but this part of the House wants to be satisfied by relevant figures to be given by the Honourable the Commerce Member that we are not giving a rupee more in protection than is absolutely necessary for the protection of the Tatas. We should in no case rely on the old and antiquated figures which, even according to the Government are at least 18 months old. Sir, it has been said that the corrugated iron sheets are used by the middle classes. That is not at all correct. In my part of the country even the poorest people have to use these corrugated iron sheets for

housing purposes. Sir, it is a well-known fact that the poor people have their huts covered with straw thatches, but during the summer, due to fire, the whole village might be burned down. Therefore, for the last 15 or 20 years, the villagers are trying to get the roofs of their houses made of corrugated iron sheets. So, it has become almost a necessity of life. I also appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to see that it is also in the interests of the British manufacturers that the ordinary villager in India should be able to make use of these corrugated iron sheets. It is no use putting a high price which will be beyond the reach of the poorer people. So, if Government can see their way to reduce the price by accepting any lowering of this duty, then, following the principles of increasing returns, there will be greater consumption, and not only the Tatas will have their full quota, but the British manufacturers also will be able to do better business. It is no use calculating on figures that there will be so much of consumption and the Tatas having satisfied their 48,000 tons for the first year or even 90,000 tons for the second year, there will be so much left for Great Britain. Now, Sir, it is admitted that the consumers are in the worst economic condition and they cannot afford to buy these things unless they are cheap. So, in the ultimate interests, not only of the Tatas, but also of British manufacturers or, for the matter of that any foreign manufacturers, it should be the view-point of all to make these corrugated iron sheets as cheap as possible. Though there is some real difficulty in the acceptance of this amendment, I hope, the Honourable the Commerce Member will satisfy this part of the House that the cost of production accepted by Dr. Meek, on which these calculations are made, is correct, and that there is no necessity for revising those figures in the face of the Tatas statement contained in their publication and that all attempts have been made to make the corrugated iron sheets at the lowest possible price available.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : Sir, I have very little to add to what I have already said. My Honourable friends opposite are labouring under a great mistake if they think that the fair selling price which has been arrived at by the Tariff Board has been fixed on any but the normal considerations and that the Board was influenced by any extraneous factors in arriving at a fair selling price. The price of Rs. 170 per ton arrived at by the Tariff Board is a definite fair selling price reached by the process of calculation which they adopt in calculating the fair selling price of every other item. The portions of the report quoted by my Honourable friends are totally irrelevant so far as the fair selling price is concerned. I will only add that as I have said before the power which we have asked to be invested with under clause 2 of the Bill will give us the right, not merely to raise, but also to lower the duties if circumstances should arise which make the existing duties insufficient or too high. As regards the purely technical point, that has been sufficiently dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, and it is unnecessary for me to labour that matter. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (ii), all the words and figures occurring after the words ‘British India’ be omitted.”

The motion was negatived.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (ii), for the figures ‘ 40 ’ the figures ‘ 26 ’ be substituted.”

Sir, I may first of all point out that in this as well as in the other amendments of the same nature I have not put down the figures simply by drawing a lottery. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, had a very ingenious arithmetical explanation when I said that 32 should be changed into 23. He said that the digits are reversed, but he forgot to add another arithmetical humour which, I think, was rather necessary that I hated composite numbers and I was very fond of prime numbers because 32 is a composite number and 23 is a prime number. But unfortunately, there is no arithmetical jugglery. There is neither arithmetical humour in it nor have these figures been drawn by lot. I have calculated these figures on certain principles. The principle is that the Tariff Board in addition to giving them a fair selling price at Tatanagar have added additional protection which they call fair selling price at port. On page 154, the Tariff Board report says :

“ To this price,”

—meaning the fair selling price at Tatanagar—

“ we add allowances for freight disadvantage, selling expenses and the lag between import and realised prices and thus arrive at a fair selling price which is comparable with the landed prices of imported goods.”

On page 54, we find two selling prices ; one at Tatanagar and the other at the port. I object to this manipulation that is the fair selling price at the port, and, in support of my argument, I would quote the Fiscal Commission report. It says on page 58 :

“ It would not in our opinion be right to endeavour to secure an industry such protection as will enable it to compete in every possible market in India. If this involves giving protection, appreciably higher is required for the access of the industry in the greater part of the country.”

These are the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission, and here, I say, that it is not necessary that we should calculate the fair selling price at the port. Supposing a person orders any goods from Nagpur. Certainly the articles will not first be taken to the port either at Calcutta or Bombay and then brought back to Nagpur. Therefore, wherever a selling station is located, whether at Tatanagar, or at Bombay, or at Calcutta or anywhere, then for certain stations they will be in a position of advantage and certain other stations will be in a position of disadvantage. Therefore, the addition of another margin of profit in the name of freight disadvantage, in order that all the articles from Tatanagar may first be taken to a port and then the fair selling price to be calculated, is neither fair nor it is according to the recommendations of the Tariff Board report. We should fix the fair selling price at Tatanagar and compare it with the landed price at any port, whether Bombay or Calcutta or whatever it is. Therefore, according to the fair selling price now calculated, we have first to take all the articles from Tatanagar to a certain port and then make it the distributing centre from the port, and, I submit, this is against the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission report. You must calculate the fair selling price at Tatanagar and remove the margin of profit for the supposed disadvantage is not distributing them from the port.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Does my Honourable friend seriously believe that the Tariff Board have calculated the fair selling price by calculating it from Tatanagar to a port in each case and then from the port to other parts of India ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : They have calculated first the transfer of articles from Tatanagar to a port and thus the freight from the port to the place of destination will fall upon the consumer.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : But does he seriously believe it ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : It is not a question of belief, it is a question of fact. This is the recommendation in the Tariff Board report which I seriously object to. I find on page 154 the passage which I quoted above. On page 51, in table XXI, the Tariff Board report gives one fair selling price *f. o. r.* Tatanagar and another fair selling price *f. o. r.* port, the fair selling price for rails for Tatanagar is Rs. 95 per ton and for a port it is Rs. 103. For the purpose of calculation they have not taken the fair selling price at Tatanagar but they have taken the fair selling price at the port. Not only this but they have said very clearly in their recommendation as follows :

“ In Chapter V we deal with the amount of protection required. Having added to the costs of production the overhead and capital charges we determine the fair selling price *f. o. r.* Tatanagar. To this price we add allowances for freight disadvantage selling expenses and the lag between import and realised prices and thus arrive at a fair selling price which is comparable with the landed prices of imported goods.”

I do not mean to say that they have added the full freight from the port. I say, if you take the whole of India and you place your distributing centre anywhere in India, whether Allahabad or Tatanagar or Bombay or Calcutta, you will find that it may be cheaper to get the requirements from one place than from another place because of its proximity to the distributing centre. I, therefore, submit that it is unreasonable to calculate the cost of transfer of goods from Tatanagar to a port and then from the port to the distributing centre. They have made two other allowances, they have made calculation for sale commission or sale allowance but this is common to all articles imported from outside. The second is what they call the lag between import and realised prices. This is also common to all. Therefore, this additional allowance which they have made for these freight charges and for the sale price is, to my mind, not justified, and whenever I have calculated these figures, I have simply removed these additional charges which they have already made on these imported articles. That is all that I have done in this case ; and the other allowance I have made is that I have equalised the excise duty and the import duty, which is a point on which I fought in the case of kerosene and it is a point on which I fight at this stage also. Therefore, making allowances to these two principles, I have calculated these figures which I have given here. These figures I have given here are not drawn by lottery but they are based on these calculations. With these words, Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 143 (a) (2) (ii), for the figures ‘ 40 ’ the figures ‘ 26 ’ be substituted.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I find that my Honourable friend has discarded the system of drawing lots and has now adopted a more scientific method of arriving at the figures which he wishes to substitute for those embodied in the Bill. I admit at once that my Honourable friend's point of view is a possible point of view, but I would point out to him that this method of making allowances is no novel method introduced for the first time in this Tariff Board report. This question of freight disadvantage or advantage has been dealt with by previous Tariff Boards on exactly similar lines. And, what I would point out is that the method of the Tariff Board is to average out both advantages and disadvantages and arrive at a figure which can be conveniently added to the price to get the fair selling price. In these circumstances, Sir, I am sure that nobody in this House will complain of our giving an unnecessary advantage to Tatas. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 9, in the third column of Item No. 148 (a) (2) (ii), for the figures ‘ 40 ’ the figures ‘ 26 ’ be substituted.”

The motion was negatived.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 13, in the third column of Item No. 150 (b) (ii), for the figures ‘ 39 ’ the figures ‘ 24 ’ be substituted.”

I will move it with the arguments I have just delivered and my speech may be supposed to be repeated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 13, in the third column of Item No. 150 (b) (ii), for the figures ‘ 39 ’ the figures ‘ 24 ’ be substituted.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I may be supposed to repeat the same arguments as I have already advanced.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 13, in the third column of Item No. 150 (b) (ii), for the figures ‘ 39 ’ the figures ‘ 24 ’ be substituted.”

The motion was negatived.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, the next amendment is :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 17, in the second column of Item No. 235, the words ‘ Iron, pig ’ be omitted.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I have to take an objection to this amendment. I would point out that if the words “ Iron, pig ” are omitted, the effect will be to bring pig iron under the class of “ manufactures not otherwise specified ”, in which case the duty will be at once raised to 20 and 30 per cent. The effect of my Honourable friend's amendment, therefore, would be to increase the duty.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I thought that if we carry this and say that no duty will be charged the effect would be that it would be included as a consequential amendment in Part I of the Schedule of the Tariff Act, under which no duty is charged.

Mr. A. J. Raisman (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, the position is that all iron and steel is either liable to duties at protective rates under Part VII of the tariff or at revenue rates under the preferential items in Part VIII of the tariff. Any iron and steel or manufacture of iron and steel, which has not been specifically mentioned, falls automatically under No. 195 of the Statutory Schedule which is "all sorts of iron and steel and manufactures thereof not otherwise specified"; and the effect of Dr. Ziauddin's amendment by excluding it from Item No. 235 would be automatically to put it under this general 'limbo' item of iron and steel on which the rates of duty are 30 per cent. standard and 20 per cent. preferential.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : My intention was to remove the duty on pig iron, and if the motion is carried, then as a consequential amendment this particular Item will be included in Part I, Schedule II, whereunder no duty is chargeable and it will not be subject to the high duty as is urged on the other side.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair quite admits that the Honourable Member's intention was to take away the duty on pig iron altogether, but unfortunately the Chair can only construe the amendment as it is put down in the paper. It is rather difficult to find out the exact intention that lies behind it. As pointed out by Mr. Raisman, in Schedule II, Part VIII of the Indian Tariff Act, there is item No. 195, which runs as follows : "All sorts of iron and steel and manufactures thereof not otherwise specified...30 per cent. standard rate and 20 per cent. preferential rate". Therefore, if pig iron is removed from the protective duty, it will automatically fall under item 195. The result would be to increase the existing duty.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : But if it is included in Schedule II, Part I ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : But it is not included. The Chair can take the amendment as it is in the order paper and find out what the consequence of that would be. The amendment is out of order.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I move :

"That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fourth column of Item No. 237, the words and figures 'or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, whichever is higher' be omitted."

The object of my amendment is that we should not put unnecessary burden on the consumers by putting this duty on the British goods. As I mentioned before, Tatas can, on the figures given in the report, compete on equal terms with the British goods but not with non-British goods ; therefore, protection is needed in the case of non-British goods and not on British goods. We have had ten years of protection, and, during these ten years, Tatas have reached a stage when it can stand on its own legs, as far as British goods are concerned ; but, as far as continental goods are concerned, it is not yet in a position to stand on its own legs and that is the reason that we have allowed additional time for their protection. At the end of even this period of

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

protection, they will be able to stand on their own legs. I find that their fair selling price is less than the price at which the British goods can be imported, and, therefore, protection is not needed. We may levy a duty for revenue purposes, but you cannot call it a protection duty, because a protection duty is needed only if the fair selling price of Tatas is more than the price at which the article is imported from foreign countries ; but if the article is imported at a price higher than the fair selling price of Tatas, then I see no reason why the protection duty is levied. As I have said repeatedly, a revenue duty should not be used for protection purposes. Whenever you levy a revenue duty, you will have to equalise it by levying a special excise duty. We have done this in the case of sugar and our memories are not so short. We gave a certain amount of protection to the sugar industry : we raised it for revenue purposes by 25 per cent. in 1931, and, then, afterwards, when the Government came forward and said that the additional duty was only for revenue and not for protection, an equivalent excise duty was levied. I want to remind the House and the Honourable the Commerce and the Finance Members that we levied in 1930 a protection duty on sugar of Rs. 7-4-0 a cwt., and by the Act of 1931, we suddenly raised—by that foolish mistake of ours—the duty by 25 per cent. then, when we realised that we had committed a mistake, we came forward this last Session and said that the mistake ought to be rectified either by removing the additional protection or by imposing an excise duty equivalent to the amount of the revenue duty which had been put up. We decided the later course in the interest of revenue. We adopted this principle in the case of sugar. I see no reason why we should not do the same in the case of steel. If, after giving requisite protection, we put revenue duty, then let us follow the example of sugar and impose a corresponding excise duty, and we should not use the revenue duty for the sake of protection. We ought to be consistent : we cannot treat one particular industry, because it is weak in one way and treat another industry, because it is strong in another way : we are not a government of capitalists : we are a government of the people of India, which includes more non-capitalists than capitalists ; and, therefore, in the interests of the consumers, we ought to have a uniform principle, and that, after fixing a minimum amount of protection, we cannot increase the protection simply by putting on a revenue duty on it ; and, if we ever put a revenue duty, we must put a corresponding excise duty, just as we did in the case of sugar. I say, therefore—abolish this revenue duty altogether : but if you disagree, then there is no other alternative but to impose a corresponding excise duty on similar articles in this country. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
Amendment moved :

“ That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fourth column of Item No. 237, the words and figures ‘ or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, whichever is higher ’ be omitted.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, my objection will apply equally to the next two amendments which stand in the name of my Honourable friend. I would point out that all these three items deal with unprotected items, and the result will be, if my Honourable

friend's amendment is carried, to remove the difference between the differential and the standard rate.....

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : On a point of order : the Honourable gentleman says that these items do not refer to any measure of protective duty : if that is so, may I ask whether these things can come under this Steel Protection Bill ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : These are consequential changes. As a matter of fact, I was pointing out that these are not protected items, and, therefore, under the Ottawa Agreement, we are bound to give them preference if of British origin. The effect of my Honourable friend's amendment would be to eliminate the difference between the standard and the differential rates : and, on that account alone, I would be justified in opposing all the amendments. I would point out to him that if he is really actuated by the feeling that some thing must be done for the re-rolling industry, I have already given the assurance that we will do what we can within the limits open to us to assist that industry.

Sir, I oppose.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fourth column of Item No. 237, the words and figures ' or 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, whichever is higher ' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I move :

"(1) That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fourth column of Item No. 237, for the figures and words ' 20 per cent.' the figures and words ' 10 per cent.' be substituted."

and :

"(2) That in the Schedule to the Bill in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fifth column of Item No. 237, the words and figures ' or 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, which is higher ', be omitted."

The Honourable the Commerce Member has already replied to these amendments, and, therefore, I wish to take it for granted that my speech may be the same.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"(1) That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fourth column of Item No. 237, for the figures and words ' 20 per cent.' the figures and words ' 10 per cent.' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That in the Schedule to the Bill, in the proposed Amendment No. 20, in the fifth column of Item No. 237, the words and figures ' or 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, which is higher ', be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We now go back to clause 9. The question is :

“ That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I just say that this particular clause was left over and it was agreed that it should be taken after we had finished clause 3 of the Bill ? We may take it after perhaps clauses 3 and 2 and 1 and the title are finished.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We can finish clause 3 and then go on to clause 9. The question is :

“ That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the figures ‘ 1941 ’, the figures ‘ 1939 ’ be substituted.”

Sir, when we first gave protection to the steel industry, it was given for a period of three years, and, at that time, it was clearly pointed out in the Report that this period of three years was fixed because the conditions of world prices in 1924 were very uncertain, and it was thought that in three years' time the general conditions would settle down. When the Bill came up again in 1927 for discussion, we extended the period for seven years, because in 1927 we felt that the conditions were not so uncertain as in 1924 on account of the fixation of exchange. Now, Sir, today we are practically in the same position as in 1924, because, we do not know what the monetary condition of the world is going to be ; nor can we say what the level of prices would be after five years. No doubt, from 1929 onwards up to the present year, we have been having an enormous period of depression, with the result that prices of almost all articles have fallen. but I must say that we are just on the verge of revival again. We cannot say what the general conditions in three years' time are going to be. It is likely that the European countries will have to raise the prices of their articles. They will probably have to stabilise their currencies in terms of the dollar and sterling, and they will have to find out new price levels for all their agricultural products and manufactured goods. At the same time, we see that there is likely to be a great improvement in the manufacture of goods, and, consequently, the cost of manufacture will considerably change. Therefore, we expect that during the next five years, changes of a momentous character are likely to occur, and this change will probably be over after five years. Therefore, if we draw our conclusions from the facts of the last five years, we are justified in saying that the present conditions will continue for another five years. But to say that conditions will not change for another seven years is really more than the general conditions of the world can justify. We all know that we are moving nowadays very fast, and in two years' time we will have to find out some solution for the low monetary condition into which the world has fallen, and this monetary condition leads to great disturbances in the price levels of the manufactured articles. Therefore, we have given the protection on the price level at a very unfortunate time. I am nearly certain that the price level of these articles will not remain the same after the world

conditions have settled down. In view of the fact that the world conditions in 1934 are practically the same as they were in 1924, I think it is only reasonable that we should give protection for a period of five years, and then if necessary extend the period for another two years, if conditions do not improve. In India we see visible signs of improvement, and there are visible signs elsewhere also. The world, however, is waiting to know the results of the huge experiment which America is making about the managed currency, and, as soon as the results of the American experiment are known, then the world conditions will get settled down, and probably the currency of every country will be stabilised, the prices will be fixed, and the prices then will be quite different from those that have been ruling during the last two or three years. I consider that three years will be quite sufficient for conditions to settle down, both monetary and price level conditions of the world. After five years we will be in a position to judge whether protection is really needed or not. I am certain that we are just on the eve of momentous changes both in respect of the price level of articles and of the value of currencies in different countries, and it is somewhat unsafe for us to predict that the present world conditions will continue for another period of seven years. To my mind, five years are quite sufficient. With these words, I move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the figures ‘ 1941 ’, the figures ‘ 1939 ’ be substituted.”

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I support this amendment. I was urging that no protection should be given at all to this industry, but on the principle that half a loaf is better than none, I say that protection for five years would be quite sufficient instead of for seven years.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, it was stated in this House that consistency is not one of the virtues of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, and by moving this amendment, I think he has confirmed that opinion, which is generally held in this House. My Honourable friend has been for so long railing at the monopolistic position which the Tatas have come to occupy in the steel industry, and now he wants to curtail the period which is absolutely necessary for any other concern to start and enter into competition with the Tatas. How does my friend expect any other investor to invest his money in the steel industry against a well-developed concern like the Tatas without being assured of a reasonable period of protection ? Sir, for this reason, I oppose the motion.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : Sir, I do submit to the House that nothing is to be gained by such a petty change in the period of protection as that suggested by the Mover. I think I can do no better than read to the House the reasons recorded by the Board for their recommendations in this regard. What they say is :

“ The capital replacements and improvements on the basis of which we have estimated the reductions in works costs will necessitate a total expenditure approximating to the aggregate depreciation likely to be earned by the Company over a period of seven years. We think it unlikely that during the next few years it will be possible for the Company to raise the funds required for this expenditure in the market. For this reason alone it is necessary that the protection recommended

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

should continue for seven years. While in the present conditions of industry and trade we cannot for obvious reasons estimate with precision how long protection will be required, we believe, considering the progress made by the Indian industry during the past seven years and assuming a revival of Continental prices to a more economical level that the Indian industry will, within the next seven years, substantially approach the stage of being able to dispense with protection."

My friend, Dr. Ziauddin's point, in regard to variations in prices, is probably a good one. Nobody knows what the course of prices is likely to be in the next few years, but we have guarded against that by the powers which we propose to assume under clause 2. The whole object of that clause is to balance any large variations of prices that may result from unforeseen contingencies or circumstances over which we have no control. So far, therefore, as his argument is based on variations of prices which we are unable to anticipate at the present moment, I think that is met by the power which we are asking the House to invest us with under clause 2. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, for the figures '1941' the figures '1939' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the amendment that is to be moved under No. 4, I do not want to move my amendment No. 2*.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : I beg to move the amendment† which stands in my name (No. 3).

*"That for part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted :
'(a) sub-sections (4) and (5) shall be omitted'."

†"That in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the word 'sub-section' the word 'sub-sections' be substituted and after the proposed sub-section (4) the following sub-section be inserted :

'(5) If the Governor General in Council is satisfied, after such inquiry as he may think necessary, that steel or steel products or steel articles, made in India, are sold by the manufacturers or their agents at higher than the fair selling prices fixed by the Indian Tariff Board, in their report, dated the 19th April, 1934, in respect of such steel, steel products or steel articles and it is not convenient or possible to regulate or control them (either generally or in respect of any specific articles) by reducing the duty as provided in sub-section (4) above, he may, by notification in the Gazette of India, direct the manufacturers of steel or such products or articles not to sell or cause to be sold by their agents at above the fair selling prices in respect thereof so fixed by the Indian Tariff Board, and in case of any default impose such penalties as he may consider necessary including withdrawal of protection (partly or wholly) or confiscation of such quantities as may be sold in breach of such direction'."

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : A point of order, Sir. I would like your ruling as to whether this amendment is in order. I submit that it introduces an entirely new principle into the Bill. It proposes to invest the Governor General in Council with powers to regulate prices. This, I submit, is outside the scope of the Bill as framed and I ask your ruling as to whether this amendment is in order.

• **Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya :** As regards the point of order, I wish that my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, had sought the help of the Honourable the Law Member before he raised this objection. The object of the amendment is simply to give a shape to the same object which the Government themselves have in the matter, *i.e.*, controlling the prices. It was explained and confirmed by the Honourable the Commerce Member last Monday in winding up the debate on the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration, and I shall read an extract from his speech. He said :

“ I can assure the House that we will give to the re-rolling industry, assistance on the general lines laid down in the Tariff Board's report. To be specific we will do what we possibly can to ensure that the prices of the raw materials will not exceed Rs. 64 at port *plus* the countervailing excise duties. That I think completes the case for the subsidiary industries.”

Now, the whole burden of the Bill is that under clause 2 of the Bill they will regulate prices in such a way that sufficient protection is given to the iron and steel industry. The objection that has been raised by the Honourable the Commerce Member can be disposed of by the ruling given by your predecessor in a similar case. I would draw your attention to this book called “ A Selection from the Decisions from the Chair, 1921-30 ”, and it begins at page 395, and with your permission I will read it :

“ To Sir Charles Innes' Resolution regarding the grant of protection to the Paper Industry, Mr. N. M. Joshi wished to move an amendment which sought, among other things, to provide for satisfactory labour conditions in the industry. Government objected on the ground that the amendment raised an entirely separate issue and that it also concerned a provincial subject and was therefore out of order.

The President ruled : ‘ I understand the objection of the Honourable the Commerce Member refers only to Part I and that he does not object to the admissibility of Parts 2 and 3 of Mr. Joshi's amendment. I will confine myself, therefore, to the determination of the question whether Part I of Mr. Joshi's amendment is in order. In doing so, I have to take into consideration and pay due respect to the ruling of my Honourable predecessor of the 26th January, 1925, on the discussion of the amendment of the Honourable Member from Bombay (Mr. Joshi) to the steel bounty Resolution. (*Now comes the more important part of it*). The Honourable Sir Frederick Whyte ruled that, as the original Resolution proposed a bounty to the steel industry as at that time constituted any further measures for nationalising, Indianisation or treating in any other way the steel industry would have to be done under some other Resolution.

I take the effect of this ruling to be that the restrictions of this nature are impositions on the working of the industry itself and not properly restrictions on the grant of the bounty and that consequently, the proposal to impose such restrictions is outside the scope of the Resolution. With due respect to my distinguished predecessor I must confess I find the point difficult to appreciate. It appears to me that any amendment which operates as a restriction on the grant of the benefit proposed by the Resolution is a restriction on the Resolution and is therefore within the scope of the Resolution. This is a proposal to impose a duty on certain classes of paper coming from abroad and thereby to raise the cost to consumers in this country.

The Members of this House, as representatives of the people, are entrusted with the care and the interests of the consumers, and I cannot agree that they should be

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

debarred from attaching conditions to the grant of assistance to industries in this country by the imposition of a tariff.

There is only one other ruling to which I think fit to refer at this stage and that is a ruling in the case of Steel Protection Bill which was given on the 4th of June, 1924, by the Acting President, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad.....'

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member need not read the whole of that ruling. He has drawn the attention of the Chair to that.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Similarly, when the last Steel Protection Bill was under discussion, Mr. Chaman Lal moved an amendment which read as follows. It occurs in the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 21st February, 1927, page 1095. The new clause which he moved was as follows :

" After clause 3 of the Bill the following new clause be inserted and the subsequent clauses be re-numbered accordingly :

' The Governor General in Council shall have power to frame rules under the Act in respect of such steel companies operating in India as may from time to time be notified by the Governor General in Council, prescribing the amounts out of the profits of such companies :

(a) which would be set aside from time to time to form a depreciation fund to be used only for providing against the depreciation of existing plant ;

(b) which should be set aside for the provision of housing, sickness, benefits and maternity benefits for workers employed by notified steel companies, whose salaries amount to one hundred rupees or less per mensem."

This is one of the items which was quite outside the scope of the Bill, but no objection was raised to it, and it was allowed to be moved in the House. No doubt the amendment was negatived in voting but that is another matter. When such wide latitude was allowed in the past, I do not see how this thing can be barred, which practically wants to confirm what the Government themselves have in mind. I do not see that any objection should be raised to an amendment which practically comes within the four corners of the Bill and as such I submit I am quite in order in moving this amendment.

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : I wish just to say a word on this point of order. The objection is taken on the ground that it is outside the scope of the Bill—that is the amendment sought to be moved by Mr. Pandya. The whole object of the Bill is, it is said, to give protection to the iron and steel industry, but the way to give protection according to the Bill is to fix a certain price as the fair selling price at which the company is expected to sell their goods, and it is on that that the duties are regulated. If that is so, it seems to me that it cannot be denied that the Bill itself seeks to regulate the prices of these iron and steel goods in this country, both imported and manufactured here. I am not speaking on the merits of this amendment, but only on the question of order. It is impossible to say that the amendment in any way infringes or goes beyond the scope of this Bill. Again, clause 2 of the Bill says : The Governor General in Council will have power to increase the import duty or to reduce it. The purpose of the Bill is certainly to regulate prices and it is only by regulating prices that protection can be given to the Tatas and also to the consumers and the subsidiary industries. Therefore, by clause 2

Government are taking power, I take it, for increasing or reducing the duties to regulate the prices. You cannot get out of it. I do not know if the Government on general grounds object to any legislation fixing the prices of commodities produced in India. That is not the ground which is mentioned by the Honourable the Leader of the House. If that were so, I should say that even there they are out of court.

- **An Honourable Member :** Government have fixed prices in the case of sugar-cane.

Sir Abdur Rahim : In the case of sugar-cane, they have fixed prices, and I can quite see that this very Government will be driven, if they go on with their policy at present, to fix the prices of many other commodities, I say, that is the natural outcome of their policy, and I do not know that there is any sort of limitation on the power of this Legislature to fix the prices. I do not think there are any such limitations as were suggested by the Honourable the Commerce Member, and, so far as this Bill is concerned, the whole object of the Bill, with a view to giving effect to protection, is to regulate the prices.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhowe : I just want to say one word with reference to what fell from the Leader of the Opposition. In the case of sugar-cane, I would point out that the power to fix prices was embodied in a separate Bill and to that extent, my objection is all the stronger.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce : Indian Commerce) : I do not understand the real purport of the opposition of Government to this clause. Is it contended that when you want to give protection to a particular industry, you cannot lay the condition upon which such industry will get that protection ? The natural consequence of this opposition will be that you cannot impose any condition to the protection to be given in whatever form that may be ; that result will follow if the point raised by the Honourable the Commerce Member is strictly applied, but look at clause 2. That clause enumerates the condition upon which the protection has been given. That raises the condition that, under certain circumstances, the protection can be reduced and can be increased, and, when this point was referred to in the Select Committee by me, I was assured that the point about fixing the fair selling price comes practically within the purview of clause 2 of the Bill. If that be so, why cannot we put in a clause specifying the condition and the mode by which the condition should be exercised. As a matter of fact as has been pointed out by Pandit Vidya Sagar Pandya, the Honourable the Commerce Member gave an assurance to the re-rolling industry as to fixing the fair selling price. He stated, in so many words, when he gave the assurance in this House that he would see that the subsidiary industries get their raw materials at a particular figure. What is the meaning of this assurance and how is that assurance to be enforced ? This amendment has been put for the purpose of enabling the Government to enforce the assurance given by the Honourable the Commerce Member, and, if the assurance given to the subsidiary companies is intended to be enforced, I do not understand why the Government should raise this point of order.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : To what paragraph of the report are you referring to ?

Mr. S. C. Sen : I am not referring to any paragraph, but to the assurance contained in the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Member. In these circumstances, I do not think there is any question of order. The amendment merely specifies the scope of clause 2 of the Bill, and moreover, the precedents given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Pandya, show very well that you can impose a condition when you are giving protection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The admissibility of amendments of this nature has formed the subject matter of discussion on the floor of this House on more than one occasion in the past. Unfortunately, the rulings that have been given are conflicting. Even as early as 1924, when the first Steel Industry (Protection) Bill was before the House, this point was brought to the notice of the House and the Chair. In connection with that Bill, an Honourable Member wished to move an amendment with the object of protecting labour, and the President ruled :

“ I have no doubt that the amendment is out of order, because it deals with a different and foreign subject altogether.”

Again, in 1925, when there was a Resolution regarding the grant of a bounty to the steel manufacturing companies, Mr. Joshi sought to move an amendment to nationalize the steel industry, and the President again ruled :

“ Mr. Joshi proposes to nationalize the steel industry by way of an amendment. That clearly is out of order. He also proposes to bring in the question of labour conditions and the Indianization of the superior staff. Those are out of order as they are not within the scope of the original Resolution.”

That is how the position stood in 1925. It is true, as the Honourable Member, Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya, has observed, that, at a later stage, the Chair ruled that an amendment to regulate the labour conditions would be in order in a Bill which seeks to give protection to an industry. That ruling was given in 1925 ; and, last year, in the case of the Indian Textile (Protection) Bill, the Honourable Member, Mr. Thampan, wanted to move an amendment seeking to impose certain conditions on companies and factories to whom protection was granted under the Bill, and the Chair then held that that amendment was in order, because it really restricted the scope of the Bill and did not seek to enlarge it. That is how the position stands so far as rulings are concerned. The Chair has no doubt that the point raised in Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya's amendment is a very important one, but what the Chair has to decide is, not whether the House has got the power of regulating prices or not—because the Chair understood that the Leader of the Opposition wanted to hold that the House has got the power of regulating prices (*Sir Abdur Rahim* : “ Yes ”)—but that is not the issue. If the House wanted, by means of a Resolution or by means of a special Bill, to regulate the prices of certain commodities in this country, it would be perfectly open to the House to do so. The point to be considered now is, whether, in a Bill designed to give protection to an industry, the House can incorporate a clause dealing with the regulation or restriction of prices. It has been contended by those who have pointed out that the amendment is in order that when this House is called upon to give protection to an industry, it would be open to the House to impose conditions under which alone such protection can

be enjoyed by the industry. It cannot be contended that, in the case of any protection Bill, the House would be entitled to move amendments imposing conditions of all kinds and nature. The Chair has to decide whether the restriction sought to be imposed upon the industry can itself be construed to come within the scope of the Bill. It is clear that in a Bill which seeks to give protection to an industry any scheme of price control is clearly outside the scope of the Bill, and the Chair must, therefore, hold that Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya's amendment is not in order.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Sir, when I sent in my amendment, I did feel afraid that the amendment might not be quite in order on account of its draftsmanship, and I, therefore, addressed a letter to the Secretary requesting him that "before it is tabled, its draft should be revised by the Official Draftsman so that there may be no objection to its draft, the only objection remaining being the substance", and the Secretary told me that such advice is not at all given to Members. Now, if it is only on account of the form and the wording of the amendment that objection might be taken, well, I was quite prepared to pay for the Official Draftsman's fee for putting it in order (Laughter), but I was told, both by the Secretary and by another gentlemen in that office, that no such help is given here. I may point it out here that in the Mother of Parliaments in the case of private Bills, if a Member is not able to draft, the Government Draftsman, on receiving a certain fee, drafts them. Well, I was quite prepared for it, but I got no help in that direction, and I am really sorry that, on account probably of the wording of the draft, I have not been able to bring it within the four corners of the Bill though it is quite within the spirit of the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair can assure the Honourable Member that the Chair has not ruled it out of order because of any defect in draftsmanship. The very substance of the amendment is out of order. All schemes for restriction or control of prices are out of order in this Bill.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Sir, I move :

"That to the Proviso in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

'and provided further that every notification issued under this sub-section shall be laid before both Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after it is made and shall cease to have effect on the expiry of two months from the date on which it has been laid before either Chamber unless in the meantime it has been approved by a resolution of each Chamber.'"

Sir, this amendment raises a question of considerable constitutional importance, and, as the House will have noticed, I have practically copied the amendment from an Act of this Legislature, *viz.*, Act XIII of 1933, known as the Indian Industries Safeguarding Act. That Act was passed a year ago, and the House then accepted the principle that the Government, which are not responsible to the Legislature, may be given power to meet certain emergent cases in which Indian industries may have to meet unfair competition from outside. At that time I believe the danger of such competition was apprehended from Japan and some other countries, but mainly from Japan : and as it would be difficult in cases of such nature for the Legislature to take prompt and effective action, the Legislature

[Sir Abdur Rahim.]

thought it feasible and prudent, in the interests of safeguarding the industries of this country, to delegate its power to the Governor General in Council though the Government of India are not responsible to the Legislature. Sir, that is a principle which has been recognized by the Legislature, and I am not going now to say one word against it. But I do contend and emphatically contend that this House should not go beyond the principle accepted in that Act, that is to say, that the Governor General in Council should be empowered under the Act to meet emergencies with which certain industries in this country may be faced and on account of which they may be prejudicially affected by unfair competition from outside and that such action by the Governor General in Council must be subject to the approval of the Legislature in the sense that it will have operation only for two months from the date on which the notification of the Governor General in Council is placed on the table of this House and of the other House. The Act provides that when such action is taken by the Government, the notification issued in pursuance of that action should be placed before both Chambers as soon as possible. That is, supposing at the time the Legislature is not sitting, in that case the Notification of the Government will have operation until the Legislature meets. Then, from the date the Notification is laid before both the Chambers, it will have operation for two months and no more unless a Resolution of each Chamber confirms the Notification and extends it for a further period. That is a principle which one can approve and the House has approved it already. But what is now proposed goes far beyond that, and I really see no justification for this extension of the power which the Legislature has given to the Government rather the principle underlying the power. I see no justification for it unless it be that the Legislature thinks that having passed an Act of this nature, it is *functus officio*, they no longer care what happens and wish to leave it to the Government to decide afterwards for a period of seven years whether to increase the duties further or to reduce them. Is this House prepared to accept the principle that once this Act is passed, it will be left entirely to the Executive Government, a Government which up to now has not been responsible to us, to alter the tariff in any way they like? I see my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, is laughing. I do say "in any way they like".

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : I was not laughing at anything said by the Honourable Member.

Sir Abdur Rahim : What I do say is that the Government can alter the tariff in any way they like by increasing or lowering the duty. I know that that is not the intention of the Legislature in giving such power to the Government. But they will act according to their own judgment and according to their own discretion. They may make such inquiries as they like or they may not. There is no duty laid upon them to make an inquiry. Anyway, whether the Government is wiser than the Legislature is certainly a moot point, though not with the Government. But that is not the point I am making. The question is that the Legislature has got certain powers. We have got what is called a Fiscal Convention to which this House attaches the greatest importance. In other spheres of legislation, we fully know that we can be overruled by the Government of India acting under instructions of the Secretary of State, but in fiscal matters, as a result of long agitation in the country, we have acquired this Con-

vention to which we attach the greatest value. That Convention is that if the Legislature and the Government of India agree, then the Secretary of State will not interfere with any decision arrived at in such a matter. Now, Sir, if the Legislature ties up its hands and makes over whatever powers it has at present to the Governor General in Council, then what happens? Then there is no Convention which the Secretary of State will be bound to accept. The Secretary of State can interfere with the Government of India's decision and give them the lead. In moving this amendment, I am not in any way seeking to minimise the benefits which the Tatas are getting from the protection. As a matter of fact, on the merits of the Bill, I have given every support to the Government. I have not questioned their decision in that respect, and I have so acted, because I believe that the iron and steel industry at Jamshedpur has proved worthy of our support. That is the reason why I have given support to that industry and to the proposals of the Government. Sir, it would not have been necessary for me to move this amendment but for the fact that the Government in this case has gone beyond the scope of the Act (Act XIII) of 1933 and also because that Act will cease to have effect after the 31st March of 1935. Government have taken power by this clause, and I do not quarrel with them so far as that is concerned, that is, not only to increase the protective duty, but also to reduce it in the interests of the consumer. Therefore, it would not have suited my purpose to ask the Government to rely entirely on Act XIII of 1933. So far as the industry is concerned, clause 2 of the Bill may operate for their benefit or it may operate to their disadvantage. I have not the slightest doubt that so long as the present protectionist policy of the Government of India continues under the control and guidance of my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, there will be very little risk to the Jamshedpur industry under clause 2 of the Bill. But, Sir, the Government of India, taken as a whole, are not completely masters of the situation, nor are the Government of India in their personnel always the same Government. Their personnel does not continue to be the same and the same is the case with this House. Therefore, in moving this amendment, I am not in any way actuated by any apprehension either that the interests of Tatas will inevitably suffer or the interests of the consumer. I am raising this question as one of great constitutional importance especially having regard to the future Constitution which is now under consideration. The House will know that the British people and the British Government insist that their trade in this country must undergo no risk, and there has been considerable discussion in the Joint Select Committee as to what should be the definition and scope of the proposals regarding commercial discrimination. That involves the question of Fiscal Autonomy of India. Naturally every Indian, who was a delegate to the Round Table Conference or the Joint Select Committee, took up a strong position, and I submit to the House that if we now concede this clause 2, as it is, without the modification that I have suggested, then we shall be very seriously and radically weakening our own position so far as Fiscal Autonomy is concerned.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : How ?

Sir Abdur Rahim : How, because the British will say, this House itself in its wisdom deliberately considered that an irresponsible executive is a better guardian of our fiscal policy than we ourselves. I should have thought that this was so obvious that it would have appealed at once to

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Mr. James. But the question raised is one of paramount importance, and I would ask the House, depleted as it is on our side, to take a firm and unanimous stand, and I would specially appeal to the representatives of industries that it is not in their interest to support the clause, as it is, but that it is in their interest as well to support the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That to the Proviso in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

‘ and provided further that every notification issued under this subsection shall be laid before both Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after it is made and shall cease to have effect on the expiry of two months from the date on which it has been laid before either Chamber unless in the meantime it has been approved by a resolution of each Chamber ’.”

In the afternoon, the Chair proposes that the House should sit till about six o'clock.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : Sir, my Honourable and esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, the Leader of the Opposition, has acquired a status and position in this House which entitles every proposal coming from him to respectful consideration from every Member of this House. When I first read his amendment I thought there was a good deal in it and I can quite understand his anxiety, as a great constitutional lawyer, for the powers and privileges of this House. I could understand very well, Sir, that protective duties, being part of taxation, could not be lightly entrusted to an irresponsible executive. Sir, the power of the purse has been earned by other countries of the world after a good deal of fight and bloodshed ; and I can very well understand my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, standing up for it when it was threatened by a piece of legislation like the present, according to his conception of this measure. But, Sir, after I looked into the debates concerning the Safeguarding of Industries Bill of 1933, I felt absolutely convinced of the validity of the stand which the Government propose to take up with regard to this particular clause, and I came to realise very vividly how very inopportune was the amendment proposed by my Honourable and esteemed friend. Sir, my belief in the inopportune of this amendment was considerably strengthened by the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, whom I do not see just now in his place, on that Safeguarding of Industries Bill. I propose to deal with that speech later on, and, therefore, I shall say nothing about it at present. Sir, so far as I can see, my Honourable and esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, has totally misconceived and misapprehended the cogency of the principle embodied in the Safeguarding of Industries Act in connection with the present discussion. The Safeguarding of Industries Act contains a serious inroad on a deliberate decision of this House which we know as the fiscal policy of discriminating protection. And, it

is only reasonable and it is only common sense that when we allow the executive to *violate* that deliberate decision of this House by granting *indiscriminate* protection, the executive must consult this House and ascertain how far this House is with them in the particular measure of indiscriminate protection involved. On the other hand, Sir, what is the principle of this clause ? The principle of this clause is not to provide against the violation of a deliberate decision of this House but the *implementing* of a decision of this House. This House has decided that the steel industry requires protection.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Not yet.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : I mean this Bill seeks to do so ; and, if anything renders that decision nugatory, it is up to this House to provide against that contingency. And this is exactly what the clause sought to be amended by my Honourable and esteemed friend seeks to do. Sir, the principle of entrusting the executive with the task of carrying out and implementing the fiscal policy laid down by this House deliberately is not a new thing at all. That principle is embodied definitely and most unmistakably in the Indian Tariff Act of 1894, and, when we last protected this very industry, the Steel Protection Bill of 1927 provided for exactly a similar power to be given to the executive without requiring the executive to come for confirmation of the exercise of their powers to this House. I refer to section 3, (4) and (5) of the Tariff Act of 1894 which was incorporated in that Act by Act 3 of 1927. Act 3 of 1927 which provided for almost exactly similar power to be given to the executive also laid it down that those sub-clauses (4) and (5) were to be effective only till the 31st March, 1934 ; and, if you look to those sub-clauses in the Act of 1927, and if you compare them with the present clause 2 of the Bill, you find that the present clause is an improvement in the interests of the consumer on clauses 4 and 5 of the Act of 1927. Clause 4 of the Act of 1927 provides for articles of British manufacture and articles not of British manufacture, and, as regards the former, it gives the Governor General power to *increase* existing duties in case of emergencies such as provided for in this Bill, but it does not give the Governor General power to *reduce* those duties as regards the British manufactures ; and I say this Bill, providing as it does for reduction of duties in connection with British manufactures, is an advance in the interests of the consumer. I, therefore, cannot understand the opposition of my Honourable and esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, to this clause. It is also noteworthy, that the Act of 1927 was passed by a House in which the so-called popular Members—I mean the Swarajists—were a very dominating element, and, still, none of those Swarajist Members thought of putting in a proviso like the one proposed by my Honourable and esteemed friend, the Leader of the Opposition. The Tariff Board has stated and stated correctly, following the recommendation of the Ottawa Report, that if a provision like this is to exist in our law, celerity and promptness of putting that provision into operation is of the very essence ; and if you look at the whole question from that point of view, namely, celerity and promptness of action on the part of the Government, how could that celerity and promptness be more efficiently provided for except by a clause like the present one unqualified by a proviso like the one proposed ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : But how does the proviso frustrate that object ?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : I will just come to it. The difficulties of giving effect to anti-dumping laws like that provided for in this clause are numerous, and they have been very elaborately enumerated by Professor Jacob Viner. I am not going to read from his work, but any man with common sense could see the difficulties existing in the administration of anti-dumping laws as found even by experience of countries such as England, United States, Australia, South Africa, etc., when they tried to administer such laws. My point is that by providing a proviso like this, you will not be in any way lessening those difficulties. On the contrary you would be accentuating them.

Then, what weighs with me most and induces me to oppose this amendment is the effect which a discussion in an open House on the matter provided for in this clause would entail on our relations with foreign countries. I was very forcibly reminded of this difficulty when I read my Honourable friend, Mr. Das's speech on the occasion of the Safeguarding of Industries Bill. My Honourable friend said that he was not going "to mince" matters, that he was not addicted to talking "in diplomatic language" and that he advocated that war should be declared on Japan. Language like this will not, I say, in any way improve our relations with foreign countries, and could not be allowed in this House even under the existing law. But how can you prevent such language being indulged in if you pass the amendment proposed by my Honourable and esteemed friend, the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. B. Das : But you find this already in legislation in other countries?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : My Honourable friend says that clauses like this are found in anti-dumping legislations in other countries. I quite agree. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend was not here when I distinguished between the principle of the Safeguarding of Industries Acts and the principle of the present clause and I am not going to repeat that distinction. But, as regards other countries, I know the Fiscal Commission has recommended that we should follow the model of Australia in this connection. But had the Fiscal Commission realised the difficulties which the Australian Government is even now contending against in giving effect to their anti-dumping laws, I believe they would have revised their opinion. Professor Jacob Viner points out that the model which would lead to beneficial results in the present connection is the model provided for by the Canadian Act of 1904 and this clause is modelled on the Canadian Act of 1904.

Then, Sir, what about political corruption? Anybody who has listened and taken part in the debates and discussions on the various protective measures which have come before the House will be forcibly reminded of the inconveniences of discussions taking place in open House on matters like the protection duties. No doubt, Sir, every question has two sides, and every side will have its advocates, and, Sir, the cost of that advocacy will have to be borne by the industry concerned. Sir, it is very easy to see that if this amendment is passed, we shall be encouraging and inviting agitation in this House every time the Government elects to exercise its powers.

The other day, my friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, brought a Resolution against the alleged mismanagement of the Tatas, and we know,

Sir, that after a good deal of mud-slinging, after a good deal of scandalous talk, that Resolution was withdrawn, but, I am quite sure, the feelings which it left behind will not redound to the credit of any Honourable Member in this House. Performances like these, Sir, if this amendment is given effect to, would be by no means infrequent in this House.

* Sir, then it was said—what is your safeguard against this irresponsible executive abusing the powers with which you are entrusted? The only ground on which my Honourable and esteemed friend supported his amendment was that that great fiscal convention was jeopardised. Sir, I have thought over the matter very deeply during the luncheon interval, and I have not been able to find any cogency or even any relevancy in my Honourable and esteemed friend's arguments based on the fiscal convention.

Sir, I submit that in our power of questioning, in our power of interpellation, in our power to moving Resolutions and in our power of bringing an adjournment motion, there is sufficient safeguard against the abuse of the powers entrusted by this clause to the executive, and, if this amendment is passed, the effect would be to render our decision to protect the steel industry nugatory, and it would work mischief in more discretions than one. I, therefore, Sir, strongly oppose this amendment.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Sir, it seems to me that a lot of unnecessary complication has been introduced into the discussion of this very simple amendment which, I understand, is intended to compel the Government of India when the circumstances mentioned in this sub-clause (4) come into existence that they should before finally giving effect to their Resolution or their conclusion to which they might come in exercise of the powers under clause 4, before they give final effect, I say they should come before this House and justify their position, not in the cause of urgency, because they have been given a *locus penitentia* of two months within which to come here and justify their position, and then to make their conclusion final. Sir, the clause runs thus :

“If the Governor General in Council is satisfied, after such inquiry as he thinks necessary, that any duty imposed on any article by Part VII of the Second Schedule has become ineffective or excessive for the purpose of securing the protection intended to be afforded by such duty to a similar article manufactured in India, he may, by notification in the Gazette of India, increase or reduce such duty to such extent as he thinks necessary either generally or in respect of such article when imported from or manufactured in any country or countries specified in the notification”, etc., etc.

The fact is that when the lessening or the excessive nature of the duty would make ineffective the protection that this Bill wants to give, when that state of circumstances comes into existence, the Governor General has got the power by a notification to reduce or to increase the duty in order to secure the protection that this Legislature may eventually decide to give by means of this Bill. All that the amendment says is,—that is all right, we have no objection to give you this power, but for the same reason that you have to come to us to enable you to impose this duty upon these articles, for that very same reason and upon that same ground when you decide after the inquiry contemplated by this sub-section that the duty laid down here should

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

be increased or reduced, come to us again, we shall consider the position as we are asked to consider the present position and agree to the duty that you want to impose at present. Exactly in the same manner, I say, we shall consider your premises and allow you either to increase or decrease the duty if we find that the premises stated by you are reasonable and deserve support. That is the idea which underlies this amendment, because, Sir, the amendment says :

“ And provided further that every notification issued under this sub-section shall be laid before both Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after it is made and shall cease to have any effect on the expiry of two months from the date on which it has been laid before either Chamber unless in the meantime it has been approved by a Resolution of each Chamber.”

I do not know where is the opportunity for my friend, Mr. B. Das to speak plainly such language as would antagonise the whole world against us. I do not understand what is that dangerous effect that a discussion would have dangerous effects, how on earth is it possible to see that a gentleman living somewhere would be so much antagonised against us that probably the skies would fall before this Assembly passed a Resolution. All that tall talk would, instead of supporting the Government cause, I am afraid, greatly weaken it. Do you or do you not rely upon this Assembly, do you or do you not think that this Assembly has got a right to say what it has got to say on the proposal? I know, of course, it is not binding on you, I know you have got your votes with which you can get through whatever you want. But all that you want is *Zubhurdust mare magar bolne to de*. That is the thing that we want. Objection is taken, do not even cry. Then what else is left to me? This is a great constitutional position, and, if I had thought that there was going to be any objection, at least from this side, I should have found several Acts of Parliament where this sort of safeguard has been introduced. There is a book, I have quoted that very often on the floor of the House, which is called “ The New Despotism ”. It is written by no less a person than the present Lord Chief Justice of England Lord Hewart. He says that the new despotism consists in Parliament delegating its real powers to the executive which, of course, as in India so in England, consists of infallible civil servants, experts in their own way,—it does not matter if they have not had any previous training in the branch—the fact is they are there and *ex hypothesi* they are experts. What Lord Hewart says is that these gentlemen, once they are entrusted with these powers, frame rules which Parliament has absolutely no chance of reviewing except by means of a private Bill—I am not sure that they have got even that power in every case. It is against that procedure that the Lord Chief Justice of England protests very strongly, and against that tendency, and quite recently, the same protest has come from America as well,—that popular assemblies who have not got the necessary leisure to go into details find it convenient to transfer their responsibility to an executive. If an objection to this process is raised even in countries like England where the Government is responsible to the people, where the Government, if it does anything which is not to the people's liking, would be immediately thrown out—I say, if such objection could be considered in England valid by such an eminent authority as the Lord Chief Justice of England, we do not want any argument here in this

House to show that at least a chance to decide or to say whether your action is correct or not should be given to this Assembly in order that they may come to some conclusion. Brush it aside if you like, I am not sure that much of what we say is even considered. Probably the fault is with us, probably we do not say anything quite useful or sensible or reasonable, but the fact is there that very much of what we say is either ineffective or for some reason or other is not considered as worth anything at all. But, even so, as we have been given the statutory right to partake in your fiscal administration, so the amendment is in itself an important matter. When we are giving you powers, please come to us and tell us what you want to do. Very probably we shall agree, and if we do not, what does it matter? It is only a matter of a few hours' discussion and you are bound to get through your own ideas. I do not know why such a simple amendment as this should require such a big haranguing in order to protect the Government from malicious and vilifying attacks which might endanger the very existence of Government. A very curious argument was put forward that in the Canadian Act, which is said to be a model, there is no such provision. In our own Act of 1927, there is no such provision, *ergo*, why do you want it now? If that is so, why, when you were a child you were quite satisfied with milk, and you want solid food now! Circumstances change. We have all been promised a sort of democratic Government and popular control over that Government, and if this is the way by which you are going to allow us to discuss the actions of Government, how are we going to have any powers which could be usefully exercised in connection with these matters? The fact that you did not put in a thing, at a certain time, is rather an extraordinary argument to state that you ought not to do it subsequently when you want to have it done. I, therefore, submit that, both as a matter of precedent, and as a matter of policy, and again, as a matter of convenience and upholding, the very privileges which you yourself have conferred upon us, I say that this amendment is the most reasonable amendment which deserves the approval of the House, not excluding the Members on the Treasury Benches. Sir, I support this amendment.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, in supporting this amendment I propose to be as brief as possible. I do not know whether we should take my Honourable friend, Mr. Anklesaria's speech as representing the Government's view in the matter. In any case, I could not quite follow him when he was seeking to draw a distinction between this Bill and the Safeguarding of Industries Act, and when he said that a restriction like the one we contemplate in this amendment was necessary in that case, because the Safeguarding of Industries Act constituted a violation of the principle of discriminating protection which had been adopted by this country. As far as I have been able to judge, the distinction which may be legitimately pointed out between this measure and the Safeguarding of Industries Act is this. In the case of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, action had to be taken by Government in a state of emergency, when the assent of this House in regard to details of protection or "temporary shelter",—that was the expression that was used on that occasion—could not possibly be obtained without unnecessary waste of time, which might prove even fatal to the cause which the Government and the Legislature had at heart, namely, the safeguarding of Indian industries. It is no doubt true that the Safe-

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guarding of Industries Act conferred wide powers on Government for the purpose of not merely protecting different industries, but also for the purpose of choosing the different industries that should be granted that kind of protection. In the first place, the Government was given the discretion to choose the industries that were to be safeguarded, and in the next place, Government had the discretion to fix the quantum of protection that was to be granted to each industry. Perhaps, my Honourable friend when he replies to the debate will point out that, therefore, there is a good deal of difference between that case and this. It was altogether a blank cheque that we were giving to Government in that instance in regard both to the choice of industries and to the determination of the amount of protection. I am at once prepared to concede that there is something in this point. But let us examine the position a little more carefully. It is no doubt true that in this particular Bill we are determining a particular industry as being qualified under the various canons laid down by the Fiscal Commission for protection, and we are, moreover, laying down the quantity of protection which, according to our judgment, this particular industry is entitled to. Now, so far as the choice of industry is concerned, I quite agree that we are not conferring the same amount of indefinite powers on Government as the Safeguarding of Industries Act, and so far as the amount of protection goes, it is no doubt true that we are laying down the different rates at which different items of steel manufacture will have to be assessed to taxation. But, if we look into the terms of the particular clause, to which this present proviso is sought to be added, it will appear that the schedule to this Bill, which we have just adopted, is, from all practical points of view, no better than a mere model schedule of rates of taxation. The Government under the very wide powers which are being granted under this clause have the perfect liberty and the right to chop and change this particular schedule even beyond recognition if they choose to do so. The life that we are giving to this Bill is more than the normal life of two Legislative Assemblies, and, as was pointed out the other day by the Honourable the Home Member in connection with a piece of social legislation, that it is not right that a dying House should tie down the hands of its successor in regard to such an important matter. We are certainly going to place it on the Statute-book but what we plead for is that, when the Government come to exercise their very wide powers under this particular clause, they will at least give a chance to our successors to have their say.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Anklesaria, has pointed out that such a provision is to be found in the two older Acts of 1924 and 1927, and my Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, has replied to that point. I should like to say that in such matters no plea of prescription can possibly be allowed to be raised by Government. We are entitled to examine every clause of a Bill which is before us and it is quite open to us to take a particular course of action which may not have been taken by our predecessors either through mistake or oversight or as an act of deliberate choice. I thought that my Honourable friend, Mr. Anklesaria, would start with an amount of prejudice against a particular measure which had been passed with the help, as he pointed out, of the Swarajist element in the previous Assembly. I do not know why my Honourable friend, in this particular instance, is going to cite the authority of the Swarajists as a complete answer to the arguments adduced by my Honourable friend.

Sir Abdur Rahim. My Honourable friend referred to a particular Resolution which was discussed in this House, and, he said, there was a good deal of mud-slinging on that occasion and he said that if the facilities which this particular amendment would give to the Legislative Assembly to have discussions on these matters were granted, then more of mud-slinging would take place.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : Without any corresponding advantage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : But, at the same time, my Honourable friend pointed out that it was quite open to us to raise all these points by way of questions, by way of Resolutions, by way of adjournment motions ; why then seek this particular procedure for the purpose of having a discussion, asked he. So I take it, that my Honourable friend's objection is not so much to discussions, not even so much to mud-slinging because, I may remind him that the mud-slinging, as he was pleased to call it, which took place according to him on a previous occasion, took place on a Resolution, and even according to him, it will be perfectly open to this House to have any amount of mud-slinging on Resolutions of that character. Therefore, I do not think that my Honourable friend is entitled to be taken seriously when he adduced that particular argument. My Honourable friend referred to his apprehension that discussions in this House under this particular amendment might lead to international complications. That is what I understood him to say. I do not remember—I have been here for the last 14 years—any discussion in this House which has led to serious consequences of that character. If my Honourable friend were right, then, I think, some of the reports of the Tariff Board should have involved us in wars in the past. No, Sir. No such contingency can be visualised by us and I do not think my Honourable friend can expect us to take him very seriously even in this argument. The difference between Mr. Anklesaria and us is very fundamental. While we seek the enlargement of the rights and privileges of this House, he is always eager to circumscribe even the little rights and privileges that we at present enjoy. Reference has been made to the difference between the character of Government which we have here and the popular Government of a democratically governed country. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, might say that when they exercise their rights under this particular clause and put on off-setting duties, as they are called, they will always remember the opinion that has been expressed in this House, and they are not likely to go against the principles which have been laid down for their guidance by the House itself. I am rather chary of accepting such an argument on the present occasion, because it was not very many days ago when an Honourable Member of the Government stated that although his predecessor in office had taken the responsibility of making a statement in this House that in his opinion, which I take it, at that moment represented the opinion of Government as a whole, a particular Local Government had not carried out the wishes of this House, the Honourable Member did not agree with that view ; and, I dare say, he took action contrary to what was expected to be taken by his predecessor in office in that matter. My Honourable friend, to whom I am referring, had not even taken the trouble of explaining to the House the reasons as to why he thinks that his predecessor in office was wrong in coming to the conclusion that a particular Local Government had not carried out the wishes of this House. As the Government Members are not responsible to this House, how can we feel safe in entrust-

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ing such large powers to the Government, when, as a result of change in the personnel, such wide and fundamental differences of opinion can take place and influence the policy of Government. For all these reasons, I think, this amendment should be adopted by this House.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I regret that Government must oppose this amendment. The Leader of the Opposition has raised what in his opinion is a point of some constitutional importance and he has appealed to our procedure under the Safeguarding of Industries Act in support of his point of view. My Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has to some extent anticipated the line that I propose to take. I would point out to my Honourable friend opposite that the two cases are entirely and utterly different. They are as the poles apart. In this particular case we are coming with our proposals for the levy of duties for the specific approval and sanction of the Legislature. All that clause 2 of the Bill proposes to do is to give the executive power to see that unforeseen contingencies are not allowed to upset the intentions of the Legislature in this matter. What we are doing now is we are laying down a level of duties which the Legislature considers are essential to secure the measure of protection which it desires to give. If this clause is passed by the Assembly, what, in effect, this House will be saying is this : " We desire this level of duties to be maintained in the interests of the industry and of the consumer. If circumstances arise, which it is not possible for us at the present moment to anticipate, we give you power to see that the duties do not become excessive or insufficient to carry out our expressed intentions." Now what is the case under the Safeguarding Act ? In that case the executive, on its own initiative, imposes such duties as it thinks necessary, in respect of such industries as it thinks appropriate, after such summary inquiry as it may deem fit.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Including protected industries, I take it ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Including all industries, but in such circumstances, it seems to me to be only appropriate that these duties should come before the Legislature for an expression of its views and for its ultimate sanction. Now I do submit, that this clause as it stands raises no constitutional question of any real importance. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, spoke as if now, for the first time, this clause were being introduced into the Bill in order to equip us with wide and extensive powers. That, Sir, is not the case. Of course, I know my Honourable friend did not mean to insinuate this, but the fact remains that that is not so. These powers have been in existence for many years. There has never been any suggestion that the executive Government has used those powers either arbitrarily or contrary to the intentions of the Legislature. On the contrary, Sir, if there has been any criticism, the criticism has rather been that the Government has not used the powers with which it was equipped by the Legislature as rapidly and as effectively as it could have done. Now, Sir, I would like to say that there are strong reasons against the alteration in procedure recommended by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition. I would point out that the requirement, that action under clause 2 should be subject to ultimate endorsement and confirmation by the Legislature, introduces a very serious element of uncertainty which may dislocate trade and business. It may lead to speculation, it may lead to

gambling, and, where it does not lead to speculation and gambling, it may lead to temporary stagnation in trade. Such interference may perhaps be inevitable in the case of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, where the duties have never yet come up before the Legislature. This interference, I submit, is wholly unnecessary and wholly inadvisable in cases where all the action that is to be taken is in the direction merely of modifying duties with the idea of carrying out the expressed intentions of the Legislature. That, Sir, in short, is the case against the amendment and I oppose it. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That to the Proviso in part (a) of clause 2 of the Bill, the following be added at the end :

“ and provided further that every notification issued under this sub-section shall be laid before both Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after it is made and shall cease to have effect on the expiry of two months from the date on which it has been laid before either Chamber unless in the meantime it has been approved by a resolution of each Chamber.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—30.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdur Rahim, Sir.
Aggarwal, Mr. Jagan Nath.
Ba Maung, U
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.
Das, Mr. B.
Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
Krishnamachariar, Raja Bahadur G.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta.
Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
Mitra, Mr. S. C.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muham-
mad.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.

Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sen, Mr. S. C.
Shafce Doodi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Sitaramaraju, Mr. B.
Thampau, Mr. K. P.
Uppi Sahib Bahadur, Mr.
Wilayatullah, Khan Bahadur H. M.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—52.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Baha-
dur Malik.
Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Reddi
B.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Brij Kishore, Rai Bahadur Lala.
Buss, Mr. L. C.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Craink, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Duguid, Mr. A.
Grantham, Mr. S. G.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.

Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
Ibrahim Ali Khan, Lieut. Nawab
Muhammad.
James, Mr. F. E.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulma
Mr.
Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Baha-
dur Chaudhri.
Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.
Metcalf, Mr. H. A. F.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Munimdar, Sardar G. N.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
Charan.
Nihal Singh, Sardar.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.

Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rafiuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur
 Maulvi.
 Raghubir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.
 Ruismam, Mr. A. J.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rastogi, Rai Sahib Badri Lal.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Richards, Mr. W. J. C.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.

Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Suhrawardy, Sir Abdulla-al-Mámûn.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur A'ou
 Abdullah Muhammad.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in clause 2 (a) of the Bill, the proviso to the proposed sub-section (4) be omitted."

The proviso reads as follows :

"Provided that the duty leviable on any such article shall in no case be less than the duty leviable on a like article of British manufacture."

The sub-section to which this proviso is proposed to be added confers wide powers on the Government, as we have just seen, for the purpose either of increasing the duties in the interests, I take it, of the industry or reducing the duties in the interests of the consumer. I was very glad to note that my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, is speaking the other day said that no political prejudices should influence our decisions in this connection. I should, therefore, very much like to know from him the reasons why this proviso is sought to be added. I take it that if the proviso means anything, it means this that even if the circumstances justify it, and even if the Executive Government is otherwise satisfied that the British duties should be reduced to a level below that of the non-British duties, even then this House should fetter the discretion of the Executive so as to secure that the duties to be fixed on non-British articles may not be less than the duties to be paid on the British imports. Now, Sir, I know that a similar provision finds place in the Act of 1927. But if my Honourable friend will look up the debates of that year, he will find that Mr. Jinnadas Mehta moved an amendment seeking to substitute a particular clause for the entire clause along with this proviso. And if that amendment had been carried, the effect of it would have been that this proviso could not have found a place in the Act at all. That division was unfortunately lost, not by a very large margin. However, I do hope that the Government would not plead prescription in this matter. I should like my Honourable friend to tell this House as to whether this proviso is being added as a part of this clause entirely on economic grounds. We have experienced great difficulties arising from the fact that a large number of foreign countries enjoy what is known as the most-favoured-nation treatment, and during the last two or three years the Government have come up against enormous difficulties in seeking to protect Indian industries by virtue of that privilege being enjoyed by those foreign nations. I do not know whether my Honourable friend will say that this particular proviso is in the nature of a most-favoured-nation treatment clause for the benefit of Great Britain. If my Honourable friend defends it on that or any similar ground, I should like to know from him as to what *quid pro quo* we have obtained for granting this particular concession. I should very much like to know whether it is a one-sided concession or whether we have got a very good consideration for making

this concession by way of legislation in this House. In any event, however, I should like to know from my Honourable friend if this particular proviso has not been adopted by any political consideration or any political prejudice in favour of Great Britain.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Amendment moved :

“ That in clause 2 (a) of the Bill, the proviso to the proposed sub-section (1) be omitted.”

Mr. B. Das : Sir,

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : A non-Congress man spoke just now and a Congressman has got up to support him.

Mr. B. Das : No, my Leader has proposed the amendment, and I am supporting it as a follower. Sir, I am not a lover of Imperial Preference, nor have I supported at any time on any occasion any measure of Imperial Preference. I have made it clear in my Minute of Dissent and in the various speeches on the floor of the House. I should like to see all industries wiped out of existence than to place national humiliation on the nation. (Hear, hear.) I have made this charge before, and, I say again, that I should like to see the Bombay city under the sea. Bombay has caused us more humiliation than any other city in India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : That might happen when you are there one day.

Mr. B. Das : If I were there I would make them more patriotic.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : How would you do it ?

Mr. B. Das : Last time when I used to live there I controlled the Bombay Presidency Association and criticised the action of Liberal Ministers like my friend, Mr. Jadhav.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I was not a Liberal Party Minister then.

Mr. B. Das : As I was saying I do hope that some Queen of England will claim again Bombay as part of her dowry and separate Bombay from India. If Aden could be separated from Bombay and if Burma could be separated from India, it is better that Bombay is separated so that we may not be subject to such national humiliation as we are now subject to by reason of Bombay being a part of India. (Laughter.) My Leader, Mr. Neogy, asked a question as to why I did not particularly raise this issue in the Select Committee. I explained that I am opposed to Imperial Preference and I do oppose it now. But I did not raise this particular issue knowing the mentality of the Government which carries a majority here and knowing also the mentality of the House on various questions, particularly the whole-hearted spirit of reciprocity that my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, has exhibited from time to time, it was very difficult for me to raise questions like this, namely the deletion of the proviso in the Select Committee. I did make it clear after the spirit of reciprocity that my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, exhibited towards the Government in his negotiations on the cotton textile question. If there is to be today the question of preference, as some Honourable Member on the Treasury Benches, I do not know who, perhaps it was the Honourable the Finance Member, as some Honourable Member said Imperial Preference is dead I believe the question should be solved by

[Mr. B. Das.]

a spirit of reciprocity but that reciprocity should be on the basis of exchange of commodities. If India is allowed to sell one million worth of commodities to England, then India would be prepared to purchase commodities of the same value from England. But what do we find? England sells India one million worth of commodities but India is allowed to sell to England commodities only worth half a million. That is the spirit of reciprocity that can be understood in the Bombay city but not in other parts of the Country. I did make it clear in the last Session of the Assembly that I was quite prepared to consider any well-considered programme of reciprocity between England and India. The other day my Honourable friend, Mr. Thampan, put a question on the floor of the House on the Indo-British Agreement and he asked whether protective measures should be brought under the Ottawa preference clause. I have referred to it twice and I do not want to raise it again by reading out what you, Sir, as a delegate—although at the time I did not agree with you entirely—what you brought for us from Ottawa. At least the Ottawa delegation laid down that any industry and any article that is protected, should not come within the purview of the Ottawa Agreement. But the Government of India, bit by bit, are bringing everything under the Ottawa pact. The other day when that question was asked on the floor of the House, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, said that negotiations were going on. In reply to a question he said :

“ I am afraid I do not quite follow my Honourable friend. This is undoubtedly an agreement between this Government and the Government of the United Kingdom.”

Then the question was further asked whether it will deal only with the cotton textile industry with which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, was in great love, though now he is in love with steel. The question was asked whether the negotiations were going to cover the whole ground of protected industries. The Honourable the Commerce Member replied :

“ It will refer, I think, to certain general principles which will be equally applicable to the cotton textile industry as to other industries.”

Sir, a vicious and mischievous principle is going to be developed and applied against the continued prosperity of the Indian industries, and yet the Indian mercantile community in India has no voice in the matter nor any knowledge of such negotiations. The negotiations may be only back-stair negotiations between Mr. Mody, the President of the 'All-India Employers' Association and the Honourable the Commerce Member, but when my Honourable friend, Mr. Mudaliar, asked the question :

“ Are any Indian commercial bodies being consulted during this stage of the negotiations ? ”

The Honourable the Commerce Member replied :

“ No commercial interest have, as yet, been consulted.”

A question was further asked whether they will be consulted and the reply was :

“ I am not in a position to bind myself in regard to that but I have no doubt that the Government will have an opportunity of knowing what the views of commercial interests in this country will be about the various questions that are under discussion.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The question of Imperial Preference is not at present under discussion and should not be discussed at length now. As Mr. Neogy pointed out, the clause under discussion is in the nature of a most-favoured-nation clause and it is not a preference clause. The Chair hopes the Honourable Member will confine himself to the issue before the House.

Mr. B. Das : Sir, I will subject the Indo-British Trade Agreement to a critical examination at a later stage, either today or on Monday, when the opportunity arises. Probably, I am a little bit dull. I do not interpret that this proviso gives England the most-favoured-nation clause treatment, rather it is a distinct provision for Imperial Preference which came through the back-door or through the front-door, because Bombay insisted that the Tata steel industry at Jamshedpur should be protected in 1927. We had to swallow it although the nationalist element in this House, as my Honourable Leader, Mr. Neogy, pointed out, opposed it and lost it by a small margin. I was going to say we have travelled much further than we were in 1927. Not that we love the principle, not that we love to give any country any preference simply to add to our own humiliation but because those who control the industries in India have lost their spirit of patriotism and nationalism and they tie us down to this clause of humiliation. If Government is fair—the Government is not fair to the people of India because the Government have to receive their mandate from the Secretary of State, they have no alternative but to do so, the Government introduced preference in 1927 and another in 1930 in the cotton textile Bill of which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, was an advocate on the floor of the House and he was helpless and he had to swallow Imperial Preference again in the Textile Bill. So I would oppose any measure of Imperial Preference, but knowing the negotiations that have gone, I would agree to any Indo-British trade agreement provided it is done fairly and squarely and provided the representatives of the mercantile community in India are taken into confidence. But that the Government are not willing to do. So, if Government, with the order of Whitehall, introduce this kind of preference for Britain, then they and those capitalists, either in this House or outside it who support such measures, are guilty of treachery to India. Therefore, I whole-heartedly support the omission of this proviso from the Bill.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal (Jullundur Division : Non-Mulammadan) : Sir, Mr. Das discussed the history of this clause at great length, and, therefore, he was half apologetic and half explanatory as to the presence of this clause, because it appears it escaped his notice in the Select Committee and perhaps on the previous occasion when it came before the House.

Mr. B. Das : No ; Imperial Preference is an accepted fact. And did I not write my Minute of Dissent ?

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : His explanations perhaps have not solved my difficulty. I approach this question in a spirit of inquiry because this thing has remained in the Statute-book even before the Ottawa Agreement was concluded. I now put the proposition like this. This sub-section (4) in clause 2 is the reserve of power of the Governor General. He has the right to manipulate these duties, to increase

[Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal.]

them or to decrease them, if he finds that the protection is not sufficient to the industry or if it is too much. And from the very nature of the case it is a very elastic clause ; and, to the advisers of the Governor General, my friend, the Commerce Member or the Finance Member, this is a great store-house of power. On the advice of the Ministers, the Governor General will proceed to act and they have the whole reserve of power in their hands to manipulate these duties, as and when they think proper, to raise or lower them. Now, Sir, I wish to know this. Is it in a spirit of absent-mindedness or is it in a spirit of abdication that they are giving away these powers and placing a restriction on their own future conduct ? Why is it that they say, " We shall use this power but we shall not use it in such a way as to conflict with the duty levied on goods of British manufacture ? " I say, Sir, that from the very nature of the case the power is vested in the Governor General to remedy a situation which may arise in spite of all calculations, to remedy a contingency which was not provided for. Well, Sir, if that is so, why is it that we are tied to the anchor of duties on British goods ? I think, from the very nature of the case, it is improper to put such a restraint on the exercise of this power in the hands of the executive Government. In fact, Sir, if I may say so, Government should have been the first to come forward and say, " Yes, thank you for this suggestion and we are prepared to take it ". It is very seldom that we on this side are out to enlarge the powers of the executive, but this is one such occasion when we say that you are putting fetters on your powers. Why do you do that ? The answer to that may be that you have entered into a bargain with the British Government. That is not so. That only happened in the Ottawa Agreement. This, if I may say so, may be a remnant of those political considerations of which we have heard so much. But the Honourable the Commerce Member disclaimed all ideas of political considerations underlying this measure. Therefore, I say, that it is either a remnant of those political considerations or it may be in a spirit of absent-mindedness. My Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, when moving his amendment, reminded the House that this provision was there in the Act of 1927, but may I remind this House that in the debate which took place on this clause in 1927, there is no mention of the proviso ? Well, Sir, human beings are apt to nod and the Swarajist Assembly of those days may have nodded. Perhaps they were fighting for the deletion of the whole of this clause.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Yes, they were fighting for a bigger principle.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : I have not read the whole of the debate, but, from my recollection of what I have read of it, it appears that they put forward a substantive amendment to replace the whole of this clause, and, therefore, they did not bother about the proviso. Perhaps weak and *effete* as we are, we think it just as well to fight about the proviso, and, therefore, I would like to put it like this that when you are providing for a contingency which has not been foreseen and in which you are keeping a huge reserve of power in the hands of the Governor General, you should not tie your hands with considerations like this. We have not entered into any bargain. There is nothing to justify this restriction on the exercise of this power and all those ideas in which we always thought first of English commerce and then of anything else are not there as guiding principles of our policy at the present day. Therefore, I

submit that this proviso, the deletion of which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, should not find a place in this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : Sir, once again my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, seems to have been gifted with a spirit of prophecy, because he has anticipated the case which I am going to make. As a matter of fact I really have very little to say on this matter. I would only point out that we are not introducing a new principle. We are merely repeating a provision which has been embodied in the existing Act, which has been in existence for many years and which has received in the past the assent of an extremely critical Assembly. The point, Sir, that I wish to make is this. I do not really see why we should give any worse treatment to the United Kingdom than we give to all other foreign countries. I wish to emphasise one point which I have emphasised all along, and it is this. If at any time British goods in this country are imported at a price which competes unfairly with goods produced in this country, then Government will not hesitate to use the powers under this clause 2 in order to enable the industry to secure its reasonable fair selling price.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : And ignore the proviso ? How can you go behind the proviso ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : In those circumstances, Sir, I do not think the existence of the proviso is necessarily a bar to the view which I have taken up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : My Honourable friend has not answered my question. What is the *quid pro quo* for this particular concession ? My Honourable friend has not given any reply to that point.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : My reply to that is that it has been in existence for seven years.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : But why was it adopted in 1927 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoze : I was not here in 1927.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : But he has access to all papers ! I think the less my Honourable friend talks about political consideration the better.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That in clause 2 (a) of the Bill, the proviso to the proposed sub section (1) be omitted.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—27.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdur Rahim, Sir.
Aggarwal, Mr. Jagan Nath.
Ba Maung, U
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.
Das, Mr. B.
Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
Krishnamachariar, Raja Bahadur G.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta.
Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
Mitra, Mr. S. C.
Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.

Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna
Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sen, Mr. S. C.
Shafee Duoodi, Maulvi Muhammad
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Sitaramaraju, Mr. B.
Thampan, Mr. K. P.
Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.
Wilayatullah, Khan Bahadur H. M.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—51.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
 Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Raddi B.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Brij Kishore, Rai Bahadur Lala.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Grantiam, Mr. S. G.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Hockenfull, Mr. F. W.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 Ibrahim Ali Khan, Lieut. Nawab Muhammad.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.

Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Pandit, Rao Bahadur S. R.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rafiuddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
 Raghubir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.
 Raisman, Mr. A. J.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rustogi, Rai Sahib Badri Lal.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Richards, Mr. W. J. C.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Sirear, The Honourable Sir Nripen-dra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Suhrawardy, Sir Abdulla-al-Māmūn.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. N.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu Abdallah Muhammad.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : No. 6 of Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya is a consequential one—and is out of order.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Yes, Sir : it is consequential.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

Amendment No. 18 of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad is out of order. As regards amendment No. 19 of Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar, the Chair is inclined to hold it out of order for the same reasons for which the Chair held the amendment of Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya out of order, because this provides for arbitration in the case of disputes which is entirely beyond the scope of this Bill. The Chair would like to hear Raja Bahadur Krishnamachariar if he has got anything to say.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : My submission, Sir, is this : it has been said in the report of the Tariff Board in dealing with complaints made against the way in which the Iron and Steel Company deal with these

subsidiary companies—they say that they have not been treated fairly, and, I believe to a certain extent the Honourable the Commerce Member also accepted the position and they said they were going to give a remedy. What I say is that I want to give effect to this in this Bill : only, the difference between Mr. Pandya's amendment and mine is that whereas his related to the fixing of a price which you held is not properly within the scope of this Bill, my contention as embodied in this amendment is that you either do or do not want to give protection to subsidiary companies : you do : very well, then, when there is a dispute, how are you going to deal with it ? That is the point. Therefore the two cases do not stand on the same level. That is my submission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member seeks to provide for reference to arbitration in case of disputes between the Tata Company and subsidiary companies. It is, the Chair thinks, entirely beyond the scope of the Bill. The Government may take such executive action as they may think necessary to meet any such difficulties, but, in a protection Bill, the Chair thinks, it is clearly out of order.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : My submission is that my amendment does not make it obligatory on the Government to take any action at all. Where, for instance, a subsidiary company makes a complaint, then I tell the Government my case. They may or may not act. It is only giving power which, I submit, it will be agreed.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Whether the power sought to be conferred is mandatory or enabling, that does not alter the character of the amendment.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : According to that, I understand the position to mean that while we are entitled to say we will give protection or not, we cannot attach any condition. That is the position.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The conditions must be such as can be brought within the scope of the Bill. That is what the Chair made clear.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : But the scope of the Bill....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, the amendment that stands.....

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I have got another amendment. Is that also *ultra vires* ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Which one is that ? The Chair thought the Honourable Member had only one ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : There is after (f) another amendment (g), there are two clauses.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair was talking of amendment No. 19 as one amendment.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : May I make a submission, Sir. Whereas clause (f) of my amendment requires a reference to arbitration

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

which you have held as outside the scope of the Bill, clause (g) refers to the reduction of the excise duty if conditions so exist that the duties could be reduced. I would invite your attention to clause (g).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The second part seems to be in order. The Chair is prepared to allow the Honourable Member to split it up. He ought to have given two amendments, but the Chair is prepared to allow him to split it up, but in the meantime does the Honourable Member want to move no. 17 ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I have already said that No. 17 was only a consequential amendment to my amendment regarding clause (f).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair will allow the Honourable Member to move the second part of amendment No. 19.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That after part (e) of sub-clause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted, and it shall be (f). ”

The amendment reads thus :

“ provide for the revision and reduction of the excise duty imposed by this Act according as the loss of revenue is made up for by duties being imposed on other steel products or by increase in the production of steel ingots either by the Tata Iron and Steel Company or by any other Company which may be established in the country. ”

My amendment shortly amounts to this.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

The present duty of Rs. four has been calculated upon the basis of the necessity to make up for a loss of revenue which would range something between 25 and 30 lakhs. Now, in the conditions stated by me in my statement, supposing there is a windfall which would bring in more revenue upon the very basis of this Act, I think the excise duty ought to be reduced to that level. Once you leave the excise duty as provided for in clause 4, you cannot touch it until the end of this protection period, unless it be to completely cancel it. But if you want to reduce it by any amount up to one rupee or eight annas, you have no power to do so, and this is what I want to secure by this amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Amendment moved :

“ That after part (e) of sub-clause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted :

“ (f) provide for the revision and reduction of the excise duty imposed by this Act according as the loss of revenue is made up for by duties being imposed on other steel products or by increase in the production of steel ingots either by the Tata Iron and Steel Company or by any other Company which may be established in the country. ”

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, my Honourable friend seems to me to have shown a certain inconsistency within the last hour. The only unfortunate thing about it is, in answering his amendment, I shall

also display an exactly complementary inconsistency. On clause 2 he was extremely anxious that the power of imposing or reducing off-setting duties should not be exercised except with the specific consent on each occasion of the Legislature. Here he proposes to give the Governor General the power to make regulations to reduce the excise duty in accordance with his desire, from time to time, without any consent of the Legislature at all. I admit that I am inconsistent too. But I would plead that it does make a difference that in the former case it was merely a question of continuing to carry out a general object which is the whole foundation of the Bill and that the retention of this power in the hands of the executive is quite allowable. Be that as it may, Sir, I disclaim any desire for this further power, not because we have not the fullest intention of carrying out the pledge given both by myself and my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, not to maintain the excise any longer than we actually need, but because I think that reductions of excise duties, which are purely questions of revenue, can much better be dealt with on revenue considerations as a whole, and not in accordance with the revenue yield of a particular item of taxation. In any case, are we not making ourselves slightly ridiculous if we enact this? The clause is a permissive clause, and to give the Governor General permissive power to revise or reduce excise duties, without any definition of the period as to when he should reduce them, will, I think, make us rather ridiculous, for, in point of fact, the Governor General will not in any case consider the excise duty except in relation to the revenue needs of a particular year at the time when those needs normally come under review. Sir, the amendment is, therefore, unnecessary, and I would ask the House not to pass it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That after part (c) of sub-clause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted :

‘ (f) provide for the revision and reduction of the excise duty imposed by this Act according as the loss of revenue is made up for by duties being imposed on other steel products or by increase in the production of steel ingots either by the Tata Iron and Steel Company or by any other Company which may be established in the country ’.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra : I beg to move :

“ That sub-clause (3) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted.”

I object to this clause as I do not like the executive to be armed with powers to create new offences by means of rules. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Amendment moved :

“ That sub-clause (3) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted.”

Mr. S. C. Sen : Sir, I support this amendment. I want to delete this sub-clause, not that I think that it ought not to be placed here, but on the general principle that no power should be given to a Local Government or the Government of India by rules to create offences. That is the principle against which I am fighting. Under this sub-clause the Government have a right to make rules and to say that any breach of those rules will be punished with a fine of Rs. 2,000. This point was raised by me in the Select Committee and I was told that this is not a

[Mr. S. C. Sen.]

matter of recent origin, but that it has been in existence for over half a century.....

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Prescription ! Prescriptive foolishness !

Mr. S. C. Sen : Certain Acts were shown to me which contained this clause, but that does not preclude me from raising the question. If the principle is wrong, the mere fact that it has been in existence for over 50 years does not make it a good one. Under these circumstances, I think that from now we ought not to put in a clause in the Statute whereby power will be given to the Local Governments or the Government of India to make rules and to create new offences. In Bengal we know to what extent this has been done. In an Act passed by this Legislature in 1932, that is, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, a provision is made that if any person publishes any seditious literature in public or any objectionable literature in public, he will be punished. The Bengal Act of 1932 contained a provision that the Bengal Government could make rules with the consent of the Government of India for the purposes of that Act. One of the rules made was one, which, to my mind, goes much beyond the operation of that Act, saying that any person having in his possession any seditious literature or any objectionable literature shall be sentenced to imprisonment for six months. Recently, I objected to that clause in a letter which I wrote to the Government of Bengal. Although I did not get any specific reply to that letter, I find that the next issue of the Calcutta Gazette contained new rules which deleted that particular rule complained of. But that may be by reason of the new Act which has been enacted in Bengal, namely, the Act of 1934, which contains several sections regarding similar matter. This is the point which I want to emphasise. About 500 or 600 boys have been sent to jail under a rule which is wrong in principle, which goes beyond the operation of the Act, and which made the mere possession of seditious literature an offence merely by rules. Under these circumstances, especially having regard to the fact that in clause 8 of the Bill you have specifically mentioned certain matters, the breach of which you specifically mention should be punished, why cannot you enlarge that clause and include therein whatever you want to make punishable ? That is my objection. I want the Legislature to set its foot down on this procedure, namely, of making penal laws by means of rules. Sir, I support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Sir, I propose to deal with the objection on its merits apart from any question of what has been called "prescription", because I find the attitude of mind of some of my Honourable friends is that if a thing has lasted for some time or for a long time, that is a point against it. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Not necessarily.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : If this amendment is accepted, the position will be that sub-clause (3) will go, and, therefore, under clause 9 (1) (2), the Governor General in Council will have power to make rules for many things—for assessment and collection of the duty, for imposing the duty of furnishing information, and so on, and so forth. As the result of the disappearance of sub-clause (3), the position will be that if any of these rules are broken, there will be no punishment for it. My Honourable friend, Mr. S. C. Sen, said, well, you can, by suitable

amendment in clause 8, provide the offences for which punishment would have to be inflicted. But I have not found any amendments as regards clause 8. My Honourable friend, Mr. S. C. Sen, contented himself with this short destructive criticism and did not apply his constructive mind to tell us how clause 8 should be amended, so that people may be punished for breach of the rules. The position at the present moment is this, if you omit sub-clause (3), then you may go on framing rules, but if the rules are broken, there will be no punishment. You will find that clause 9 covers more ground than clause 8. Clause 8 provides for :

“Whoever evades or attempts to evade the payment of any duty of excise payable by him under this Act”;

—No. 1 is payment of duty—and then,

“or fails to supply any information....or knowingly supplies false information....”

The three matters which are dealt with are the evasion of duty, failing to give information, or giving wrong information. When we come to clause 9, there is no objection by this House to the Governor General in Council making rules for collection of the duty or assessment of the duty, for furnishing information, for keeping records, for making returns, and the various other things which are dealt with in clause 9. But, if the amendment is accepted, you cannot punish for any of these offences. Take, for instance, the making of returns. If a manufacturer says, “I am not going to keep any books, records or registers or returns, or to file any returns,” well, you can frame your rules and hang them up in your drawing room, but they will be of no assistance to anybody. I submit in this particular case, on the merits it will make nonsense if you omit sub-clause (3), and, as I said, there is no attempt to amend clause 8 by putting into it matters which are not covered by clause 8. Then, another thing will strike Honourable Members at once. If, as a matter of fact, rules are framed under clause 9, and surely if it is intended that for breach of these rules there must be punishment, because the rules relate to very important matters, the Legislature cannot now sit down and exhaustively enumerate what those offences are going to be, because *ex hypothesi* clause 9 contemplates infringement of rules and those rules have not yet come into existence. It is impossible to meet the situation by amending clause 8. The Governor General in Council has got power for making some rules. When those rules are broken, under sub-clause (3), the manufacturer can be punished. I submit, if we take out sub-clause (3), the result will be, you can go on framing any number of rules, but that is only for pleasing yourself, and nobody else will be hurt by it. Although, as I said, in some minds the fact that a thing has been in existence for some time is a point against it, I will just mention to the House how long the thing has lasted. And it has lasted for very good reasons. It is impossible for any Legislature to go into details and to specifically enumerate exhaustively that these are the offences which are going to be punished. That is impossible. Rules may have to be changed owing to varying circumstances and all flexibility will be lost if any attempt is now made to indicate exhaustively what are the offences liable to be punished. Sir, before I resume my seat, I would like to tell my Honourable friends here that Mr. Sen took this point and he said that allowing the executive to have power like this has come in as an innovation during the last two or three years.

Mr. S. C. Sen : Over 50 years.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I am talking of the Select Committee. Mr. Sen is very much better advised now.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : The Honourable the Law Member referred to what happened in the Select Committee of which there is no record and other Members cannot contradict it. I want a ruling on this point whether any Member can refer to what happened in the Select Committee.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member has refrained from referring to the proceedings in the Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I shall not refer to it if there is any objection.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : It is not allowed.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : My Honourable friend, Mr. Sen, was apparently under the impression that this is an innovation two years old. I asked my Department to go into the matter, and I did inform him that our researches do not go beyond 50 years, and we found that from 1882 onwards, in the Electricity Act, in the Municipal Acts, in the Tramways Acts and Acts of all kinds whatsoever, this section has been introduced. I submit that this section should stand, as similar sections on various Acts have worked satisfactorily.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Mahapatra, just now. The Honourable the Law Member has just now said that this portion can be omitted only if there was such an amendment to clause 8, and he has suggested to my Honourable friend who has supported the amendment of Mr. Mahapatra—why did you not bring in an amendment to clause 8? I say, it was the Government's duty to bring in a concrete Bill. If they had omitted anything, it is their fault. If they had not provided the list of crimes in clause 8, it is not the fault of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mahapatra, or of any one else. Apart from this, you will see that the rules are not before us. We are not aware what rules are going to be made by the Government, and I suggest that such a vast power should not be given to one man, the Governor General, or to a small body like the Council of the Governor General to make new punitive provisions. To fix that such and such a thing should be punished with fine amounting to Rs. 2,000 is a very vast power to give. If these powers had been given to the Governor General, then, I say, it was a wrong procedure, and if it is wrong in principle, it should not be followed even if there be a century old precedent. In this case, I wholeheartedly support the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Mahapatra.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : The Honourable the Law Member has been pleased to take Mr. S. C. Sen to task for not bringing forward constructive amendments to clause 8, and he has said that it is now too late in the day to suggest an amendment to this clause. Sir, what Mr. Sen contended, as I understood him, is that by rule-making power the executive should not be allowed to take away the power of the Legislature to make punitive provisions. That is his ground, and it is well-known that this Steel Protection Bill is now subsisting from the year 1924. Government made their own rules for the Act of 1924 and the Act of 1927. They know

that both in the Act of 1924 and in the Act of 1927, there were provisions for rule-making, and they did make rules, and had they any anxiety, they could provide specific provisions for any infringement of those rules, and it is no argument now to say that because the Opposition did not table an amendment to clause 8, therefore they should not argue against the wide powers sought to be given under clause 9, for punishment of a breach of those rules. Sir, we maintain that this sort of wide powers given to the executive is wrong in principle, and the fact that it was introduced in several older legislations is not a valid argument. We contend that because it is an old rule, it should necessarily not be a good rule, nor do we really contend that necessarily there should be new innovations, but what we hold is that there has been an abuse of this power of rule-making in the different Acts that have been passed recently, and on those grounds we contend that the rule-making power should not be so wide.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That sub-clause (3) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That clause 9 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I beg to move :

“ That in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the word ‘ November ’ the word ‘ September ’ be substituted.”

Sir, memories in politics are very short. The Commerce Member would probably remember that when he moved his first Bill on the 22nd of December, 1933, and he suddenly imposed enormous duties on all kinds of articles, then, from this side, we requested that at least those articles which already left the shore of the foreign countries on the day the Bill came into operation should be exempted from duty. Our ground was that we usually have this taxation Bill on the 28th of February every year and the merchants are now accustomed to gamble and take this fact into consideration the consequences that may arise, but contrary to all the practices a new rule was framed in December, and, without any notice whatsoever, taxation was levied in the middle of the year. We argued that it was reasonable and just that this special concession should be given. The Honourable the Commerce Member refused on the ground firstly, that it will affect the revenue of the Government and, secondly, that it will create a bad precedent. These were the two grounds on account of which he stuck to his position and he did not accept our request. Again, the Sugar Bill came before us for consideration, and it was to operate on the 1st of April, 1934. Then as the sugar season usually ends on the 15th April, we made a request that it should come into operation from August, 1934. On the same grounds, this request

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was also refused and the Government stuck to their guns and they insisted that it should come into operation immediately, from the 1st April, 1934. But when they came into conflict with an industry which is too powerful, they have to yield to their dictations, lay down their arms and not dictate to them. All those principles to which they have been sticking all these years disappeared, and in the Select Committee, instead of making the Bill come into force on the day the Government of India may determine, the Government changed it to 1st November, 1934. This is contrary to their practice and contrary to what they have been saying all the time. We, on this side, can only draw the inference that they stick to their principles only so long as they are strong enough, but as soon as there are strong industries like steel which are concerned, then all their principles disappear and all the arguments quietly vanish. They changed the principle and changed the original Bill and instead of it coming into operation on the date the Governor General in Council may determine, it shall come into force on the first day of November. Therefore, this is a thing which I would very much like the Governor General in Council to consider. They presented a Bill before us in which it was clearly provided that this Bill would come into operation on a date which the Governor General in Council may determine, and, suddenly, we find that in the Select Committee this principle has been changed and they agreed to forego the excise duty. Of course the Government are sure of their votes in the House. Is it not our experience that whenever they found that the thing was decided against them in the Select Committee, they came forward before the open House and moved a motion to upset the recommendations of the Select Committee? We have seen it time after time. We have seen it in Reserve Bank Bill, we have seen it in the protection Bill on the 22nd of December last and we have seen a repetition of that. Whenever the Select Committee said a particular thing and the Government were in disagreement, the latter always came forward and reversed it in the open House, but in this particular case I do not know what the considerations were. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, said, you may move any motion in this particular Assembly, and Government is sure to carry it whatever it may be,—even if it may be. . . . well, I will not repeat those words. (Laughter.) Sir, I cannot possibly understand what the reason was for changing this principle; and, Sir, they also set aside the previous precedent and create a fresh precedent which I wonder how they will in future justify. Sir, before I sit down, I should like to say one word to my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, as I shall have no other opportunity of replying to what he said about the shareholders. He said, I “damned” the shareholders. Well, I may just tell him that the word “damn” does not exist in my vocabulary. When I was an under-graduate in Cambridge, one of the other under-graduates with whom I lived—and he now holds a very important position in the Home Secretariat—said that he once said to his father, “damn him” and the father gave him a very good rebuke and told him that that word was never spoken by a gentleman, and that from that time I never damned anybody including myself. (Laughter.) I did not say “damned”, but my friend misunderstood me. Sir, I never damn, I never curse, but with regard to facts, I stand firm, and I can only change my opinion on the basis of facts and arguments. Sentiments cannot change facts. With these words, I beg to move my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Amendment moved :

“ That in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the word ‘ November ’ the word ‘ September ’ be substituted.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I would only draw my Honourable friend's attention to the fact that there is a very fundamental difference between this particular Bill and the previous legislation to which he has referred. In this particular case, practically all the duties have been lowered, with the exception of two ; I think in respect of only two specific items will there be any rise of duties. All other duties are being lowered. (*An Honourable Member* : “ What about the excise duties ? ”) The only other point I have to make is that it is within the knowledge of this House that in this case, we followed our usual practice. In view, however, of the strongly expressed views of practically every Party in the House (this was not forthcoming in the case of the other two Bills to which my Honourable friend referred), we felt that we should not be justified in maintaining the position we had originally taken. For these reasons, Sir, I must oppose my Honourable friend's amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the word ‘ November ’ the word ‘ September ’ be substituted.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question is :

“ That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

(Applause.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Sir, the whole body of the white elephant of this Indian Iron and Steel Duties Bill has passed through with its tusks and trunk, but the tail remains, and this is the ceremony of passing the tail of that elephant—the “ third reading ” of the Bill. I do not wish to take any more time than what is necessary, for, in the case of some of us who are now thinking of standing again for the next Assembly, our bodies are here but our minds are in our constituencies (Laughter) ; and, as such, I shall be as brief as possible. Then, Sir, when the Bill came out from the Select Committee, I had a talk with some of the Members and one or two of them told me that there was no use sending in any amendments, for the Government had made up their mind not to allow even a full stop or a comma to be altered from this Bill. In that respect, I congratulate my Honourable friends the Finance and the

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

Commerce Members that they have been more lucky than Sir George Schuster in the matter of the Reserve Bank of India Bill. There, at least some punctuations were altered here and there, some few words were omitted, but this Bill has passed absolutely without any alteration ; neither the several Minutes of Dissents nor even all these fifty amendments, of which my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, had the largest number to his credit, had any effect on the Government. It would have been better if the Government had saved us from all this discussion and said—"here is the Bill. Do you wish to accept it or reject it", just as they had said in the beginning that if you insist on the excise duty being removed, we are going to withdraw the Bill. Thus, they could have saved us from all this botheration of a discussion. Sir, what is the use of this House making any proposals or any suggestions when not a single comma or a full stop can be altered ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not due to the Official Nominated and some Non-Official Members who vote on the other side ?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Now, Sir, the Bill, as my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, says, has been passed by the votes of the Government and of the Nominated and some of the Non-Official Members. I do agree, but in this matter my friend, Mr. Mody, and the Government had an "agreement" between them, and what is the use of the Legislature interfering ? Sir, we have got a vernacular proverb :

"*Jab mian bibi razi, To kya karega Qazi ?*" (Laughter.)
 "Where husband and wife agree, what can Qazi do ?"

Here, the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole and Mr. Mody "agree", and what is the use of "*Qazi*" Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and what is the use of this Legislature ? Sir, the Government could have spared us all this trouble, if they had already settled all these matters amongst themselves !

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : Who is Mian and who is Qazi ?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : There is the "*Mian*", there is the "*Bibi*" and there is the "*Qazi*". (Laughter.) Sir, the Bill has been passed by the protective votes of the officials and the nominated voting automatons and the votes of those, who are more superprotective loyal courtiers than patriots, on our own side. (Laughter.) I won't go to the extent of saying that they voted under the hypnotism of their own unpatriotic selfish interests, but the position is this that at this fag end of the Assembly Session, such an important Bill has been put before us, and, Sir, it has been passed by the protective votes of all those gentlemen.

Now, the Honourable Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad took all this trouble of sending 20 amendments out of the 30 amendments that appeared on the first list and he sent more afterwards. He was the first in the field to send them and he took so much trouble. We are extremely obliged to him for all the facts and figures that he collected. He did not benefit by his past experience of the Reserve Bank of India Bill and he sent so many amendments and he had the misfortune of losing all his amendments again. But let me congratulate him on the learned speech which he delivered full of facts and figures. As he is a Senior Wrangler, he is always out with his figures which are correct, though sometimes some of

his facts might be disputed by some. My Honourable friend, the Raja Bahadur, said : "*Maré to sahi, par roné to dé ?*" That is to say, "you may beat us, but let us 'cry' at least" ? But I may tell him : "*Andhé age roé, apné nain khoe*". That is to say, "what is the use of crying before a Government which is so blind to the public opinion. They do not care for us". All our amendments and all our suggestions are thrown into the waste-paper basket. Anyhow, we must feel thankful both to the Honourable Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and to the Honourable Mr. B. Das. Mr. Das put in a very good and strong Note of Dissent, but it has not received that attention which it deserved. Now, Sir, the Chair has ruled out of order my amendment about the so-called "fair selling-prices". From the point of view of the consumer, the Tariff Board prices are the most "unfair selling-prices". The Indian Tariff Board report is something like the "Gita" to the Government. (*A Voice* : "It is a Christian Government.") Then, you may call it their "Bible". Here also, I may say, that wherever it has suited them, they have accepted the recommendations of the Tariff Board and wherever it did not suit them, they have thrown them to the winds. Chapters III, IV and V of their report are the chapters which concern mostly the present Bill. The Tariff Board have been very liberal in granting concessions to the Tata Company. In fact, whatever Tatas have asked, has practically been granted. They have calculated the cost of materials, labour, supervision, power required for the manufacture of steel, etc., and in every item they have been very liberal in allowing the figures.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

Their overhead charges have been most extraordinarily high, and here I may be allowed to point out that the past experience of Tata's has not helped them in this matter. They have been always very extravagant in their overhead expenses. So much so that some years ago, when they started the Bank called the Tata Industrial Bank, Limited, its failure was entirely due to the extraordinary overhead expenses. They entered into such absurd terms with their European officers that the overhead expenses went up so high that they had to close the Bank entirely. It was due to the employment of too many European or British officers that the bank came into trouble and had to be closed and amalgamated with another bank. Similarly, this overhead expenditure of Tata's in several directions, I am afraid, is the cause of all our troubles with the result that all these high duties and other things have to be put. I do not wish to go into details regarding the valuation of plant and machinery. The Board has dealt with the matter and the result is that as they have put too much value for the capital expenditure, the depreciation amount is so heavy that nearly 78 lakhs of rupees have to be put every year for the sake of this depreciation. If the value of the machinery and plant and other things are written down to the proper and reasonable value, depreciation charges will go down, and I ask the Government, in the working of this Act, to see that these expenses are kept within reasonable limits, so that the consumer has not to pay such heavy charges for his articles. Similarly, the interest on the working capital, as has been pointed out by our learned friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, is very high, and it has been drawn practically from foreign investors. The Managing Agent's commission, about which I do not wish to say much now, should also be taken into consideration and the head office charges should also be looked into.

An Honourable Member : These are Mr. Mody's charges.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : The charges come to about 4½ lakhs a year, because that is the charge for the head office and he is in the head office. I do not wish to go into other adjustments which the Tariff Board has put in their report. They have allowed for every real and imaginary adjustments for freight disadvantages, selling expenses for lag between import and realised prices, etc. On pages 45 and 55 there are two Tables. Table XV gives the estimated average works cost, etc., and Table XXV gives the so-called "fair selling-price", etc. In this connection I do not wish to tire the House as my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has already given a number of figures to show how excessively the profits have been added. I will quote only two or three items. Take, for instance, the first item, "rails". The estimated cost is really about Rs. 51, but the incidence of profits and overhead charges come to another Rs. 42; that means that about 80 per cent. is allowed for that purpose. Then we have got the next item, "fishplates". There also the overhead and profits are allowed at the rate of 67 per cent. The only item about which probably they have made a mistake is the "tin bars and billets". There they have allowed only ten per cent. But in the case of the "galvanized sheets" the profits and overhead charges come to 52 per cent. and similarly 52 per cent. on "sleepers". Added to that, there are special profits due to contracts with the Government for sale of rails at a much higher figures than the fair selling-price. The Tariff Board has not allowed this margin of special profits in calculating the overhead charges and the profits. The overhead charges, as I have said before, include the largest item on account of the writing off of depreciation on the present value of plant and machinery. If the value is reduced, it will mean much lower expense for the depreciation. Then, the profit of eight per cent. to the shareholders is high, the charges or interest on foreign borrowed capital is also high. The report has admitted that owing to obsolete designs and construction, there have been frequent cost of repairs and renewals and a lot of wastage and the bye-products are not utilised to profit, and so the Government, in making their calculations, should bear all these in mind. There has been a remarkable fall in the price of coal and splinters and the ore cost and raw materials are the cheapest in the world and the highest contents of iron in the world, but the charges for the manufacture are very high. The profits of ten per cent. duty on British sections have to be carefully considered and the higher profits on account of special charges made to Government in their contracts, all require to be carefully considered before Government think of making any changes under section 2 for protecting the industry against any fluctuation of steel and steel products or articles. At present, the profits that the Tatas have got are practically from 26 per cent. to 40 per cent. over the cost, while ordinarily such high profits are not allowed. In spite of all these extraordinary concessions, which have been given, I am quite prepared to accept the fair selling price which has been fixed by the Tariff Board. Though my amendment has been ruled out on account of a technical defect, I would request the Government to take care that they regulate the prices in such a way that the burden on the consumer is reduced as much as possible. The consumers should not be penalised for the sins of omissions and commissions of the Tatas. I have already read extracts from the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Member and he has promised that he will see that the steel rolling industry gets their requirements at a fixed price. It is not enough if they get at a fixed

price, they should get enough material for them to go on. The Tatas have got practically 250 thousand tons extra besides their ordinary requirements and they should not look upon these other smaller industries as their rivals and cut short their requirements, nor should they reduce the rates on manufactured articles in such a way which will kill some of these smaller industries. For instance, on a particular occasion, the Tatas had begun to sell articles in the Punjab at such a rate as to kill a minor industry. The Tariff Board report on page 14, paragraph 21, says :

"Class (i) comprises all the up-country mills to which we have referred. The extension of the Tata Company's markets into remote parts, has brought the Company into sharp competition with these small works, and we have received numerous complaints against the methods employed by the Company in pushing the sale of its own bars at the expense of these local rivals. We have no doubt that within their small compass these re-rolling mills have been able to make their competition felt ; and in the effort to find new markets the Tata Company has followed the practice of big industry in other parts of the world and has reduced prices below the true commercial level."

As such, I would request the Government to see that these mills get their materials at a fair selling price, specially as they have got on the billet an extra ten per cent. which the Tatas never contemplated and, as this is a monopoly of the Tatas, they should take greater care against any combination by the manufacturers just as they had certain contracts and certain special terms. They should see that these smaller industries are properly protected, and I hope the Honourable the Commerce Member will give us an assurance that it will not be merely a pious hope, but that it will be actually put into practice. Similarly, there may be occasions when owing to special causes, such as currency fluctuations, the internal economic considerations of other countries, the Continental and British steel cartels may come to any special agreement with the Tatas and they may be inclined to increase the rates. Special occasions such as the war—no doubt emergency measure—and other conditions, such as strikes and lockouts, may cut off the supplies in future and when the consumer has paid such large sums nearly amounting to 18 crores for protecting the Tatas, they should be grateful to the consumer and should regulate the prices in such a way that they do not have any profiteering. For instance, in paragraphs 102 to 104 on page 58 it has been said that some of the overhead charges and other items the other foreign companies have not been calculating, because they were established on what they call the war compensations. But, in view of their having to work under different conditions now, they will be compelled to make heavier charges, and it is just possible the foreign articles may still further rise in price. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech the other day, while explaining and criticising the attempt to equalise the duties on British and Continental sheets, gave the example that the Continental galvanised sheets arrived at the Indian port at the rate of about Rs. 130 a ton, while British sheets come at the rate of Rs. 160. The Tata's figure is about 170. I hope I am not misrepresenting what the Honourable the Finance Member has said. If a 40 per cent. item is added to the continental article, then the result would be that the continental price will go up to about Rs. 200 and the foreign article will be sold at the rate of about Rs. 195. The result will be, said the Finance Member, that "Tata's also will raise their price from Rs. 170 to Rs. 195". Those were his words, I noted them down carefully at the time. If that is the attitude of Tata's that whenever there is any rise in prices of foreign articles, they are also going to take advantage of it, that they ask for help to protect them and

[Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya.]

also wish to exploit and profiteer when the occasion arises, then that is a very unfair arrangement, and, I hope, Government will take care that they do not allow any such profiteering.

Now, Sir, we have been asking for the balance sheet of the company. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, was kind enough to promise that he would give us, but we have not got it. Even the shareholders have not got it after five months. The last balance-sheet issued, was for March 1933, I am told, but I was not even able to get a copy of it in Simla. Thus it is not possible for me to speak about the items of bloated assets and other expenses, nor have we got any idea of any secret reserve funds which are being utilised the income of which I do not know how they are spending. I am sure they are being dealt with properly, but it would have been better if the balance-sheets were made available to this House. No doubt the balance-sheets do not give much information. Just as language is meant to hide one's thoughts, so also some balance-sheets are meant not to disclose the real position.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is that a confession ?

An Honourable Member : Does that apply to banks also ?

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : As for banks, Government have prescribed special forms and they have to give all the information which similar foreign concerns do not give in India. And there also, I may say, that the foreign banks and, companies are exempt from giving all information, while the Indian concerns have to disclose certain information which is of advantage to their rivals, while we do not get similar information about foreign banking concerns in India. I hope, when the Indian Companies Act is next amended, Government will see that the foreign companies are not given any better advantage over the Indian concerns in that respect.

Then one of the questions I had asked in the beginning was, whether there were any secret arrangements between Tata's and other concerns, both inside and outside India ; and no statement has been made about it. We do not know what will be the effect of such arrangements in the future. In the past, I gave you some instances, in which Tatas had entered into some agreements with some local companies, with the result that the prices were kept high. Therefore, we want an assurance that there are no secret arrangements with any foreign manufacturers or local competitors ; and, I hope, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, when he gives his reply, will oblige us by giving us some information which will allay our fears. For, I have found that during the discussion of this Bill, he has always kept a "*golden silence*" and has left the Honourable the Commerce Member to do everything for him. (Laughter.) And if there are any future agreements to be made, I would request that they must be made with the approval of Government and no private arrangements should be made in such matters.

Then, Sir, I would once more appeal to Government to help the re-rolling mill industry in India and see that Tata's or other big manufacturing companies do not look upon them as formidable rivals, and they should give the mills sufficient billets in India. I hope, under the new arrangement, it will not so happen that the billets are given away to the foreigners and the Indian re-rolling mills are starved. It has been

calculated, as I have stated before, that even taking into consideration the present position of the company and taking into consideration the future working as stated in the Tariff Board report, they will have at least 250,000 tons of billets available, and Government should see that they are not sold to the foreigners and that the local concerns are not starved. They should make Tata's understand it clearly and they should provide penalties in case of any breach, and, as I said before, in the case of some other concerns they should not enter into any competition or try to do any harm to the subsidiary companies, and the protection is given definitely on the understanding that they will treat the subsidiary industries properly and help to establish those industries and not do them any harm.

I do not wish to take up any more of your time, Sir ; let me congratulate finally Messrs. Tatas and Mr. Mody for the good luck in getting such undreamt of concessions : the Select Committee have added a further ten per cent. in the case of British articles. Though my amendment has been over-ruled, I hope the principle on which the Bill has been brought forward will be kept in view and that the Government will see that the prices are properly regulated in the interests of the consumers and also in the interests of the minor industries.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We shall have to carry on the third reading to Monday. According to the arrangement, it was to have finished this evening : but the Chair hopes it will be possible to finish it on Monday by lunch time.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 27th August, 1934.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 27th August, 1931.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF EXPLOSIVES.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) With reference to the reply to part (b) of starred question No. 812, regarding the appointment of the Chief Inspector of Explosives that for the present the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee had not been accepted by the Government, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for non-acceptance of the said recommendation and whether in future they propose to act according to that recommendation ?

(b) Do Government propose to assure the House that in future no recruitment would be made from outside India without sufficient steps being taken after due advertisement for recruitment in India to ascertain that suitable candidates are not available ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) I have informed the House how matters stand in my reply to the supplementary questions asked on the 22nd August by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. It would perhaps have been more correct to say that the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee had been accepted in principle but that the Government of India had not yet found it possible to give effect to it. I can assure the House that the possibility of giving effect to it was very carefully considered before the present appointment was made, and I am sure that it will be as carefully considered when the post next falls vacant. But since, in the opinion of the Government of India, there is no one now in the Department who could have been fitted by training abroad to fill the post of Chief Inspector at the present moment, it would not in these circumstances have been worth while to send an Inspector abroad for training.

(b) I am prepared to give the House the assurance for which the Honourable Member asks in respect of all posts within my Department. This is as far as I can go in reply to a short notice question, but I will ask my Honourable colleague, the Home Member, who is principally concerned, to consider the possibility of similar orders

being passed in respect of appointments made by the Government of India for which recruitment is made through the Public Service Commission. If he agrees to do this, he will, I have no doubt, wish to consult all Departments of the Government of India.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : I should like to know whether the appointments made in the India Office in London will also be advertised in India. I do not see why Indians should not occupy those posts there.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : That does not arise out of this short notice question.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that in the Public Service Commission, when they came to the conclusion that there was nobody suitable for this post, there was no expert there, and the statement of the Honourable Member that there was a police official in the Commission who was an expert in explosives does not appear to be correct as he was not a member of the Committee at that time ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Who was not a member of the Committee at that time ?

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Sir David Petrie, the Chairman of the Commission, was on leave and he was not even present to decide this question at the time.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I speak subject to correction, but my impression is very firmly that the conclusion of the Public Service Commission was arrived at before the permanent Chairman of the Commission, Sir David Petrie, went on leave.

Mr. B. Das : May I enquire if the Honourable the Home Member is going to issue the necessary orders which the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour has asked him to consider ? Is it going to be the policy of the Home Department to issue instructions that advertisements should in future be made in Indian papers ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I think the Honourable the Home Member will require notice of that question. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. C. Sen : But he does not ask for notice. (Laughter.)

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

CASES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN PURCHASING STORES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I lay on the table a statement, furnished by the High Commissioner for India, showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India, during the half year ending the 30th June, 1934.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT.

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1934.

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
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PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.

			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Paraffinum liquidum 9,100 lbs.	P. 2239/3792/ 18-1-34.	Stemco. Ltd.	278 13 9 (British).	278 0 0 (Foreign).	The accepted tender was the better offer having regard to the cost of inspection abroad.

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Tape, rubber, for respira- tors, 43,000 yards.	R. 177/54/ 1-5-34.	Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd.	170 18 2 (British).	170 0 0 (British).	The tape was urgently required. The lowest tenderer required from 10 to 12 weeks for delivery. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Cable, electric, rubber in- sulated, 1,000 yards.	R. 535/820/ 20-6-34.	British In- sulated Cables, Ltd.	46 10 0 (British).	46 0 0 (British).	The lowest tenderer required from 4 to 5 weeks for delivery. As the cable was urgently required the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in from 7 to 10 days.

PART C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.

Nil.

Nil.

PART D.—Cases in which lower British tenders have been set aside in favour of foreign tenders.

Nil.

Nil.

THE INDIAN IRON AND STEEL DUTIES BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume discussion on the third reading on the Indian Iron and Steel Duties Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muham-
madan) : Sir, the Tata Iron and Steel Company is about to acquire another seven years' lease of protection and one is struck by the fact that the attitude, both of the Government of India and of the Tariff

[Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur.]

Board in regard to this particular industry, has always been singularly magnanimous. It is an admitted fact that the natural advantage possessed by the Tata Steel Company as against the continental producers of steel, who, it is alleged, are dumping their products into this country, is, to start with, no less than Rs. eight per ton of pig iron, so that initially, the Indian works, on account of the high iron content of the ore and the low cost of both iron ore and coal, place the continental producers at a decided disadvantage. But it is said that the process employed on the continent (the Basic Bessemer process) gives the continental producers a slight advantage not only over the Indian industry but over the British manufacturer as well. As between England and Germany, for instance, the employment of this process, combined with the lower costs of labour and the additional advantages accruing to Germany in the shape of bye-products such as dyes and by the sale of the basic slag for agricultural purposes, places the English manufacturer in a position which does not allow him to compete with his continental rival. The depressing effect of this unequal competition is being felt both by British manufacturer and by the Indian industry, but it is, I submit, by no means correct to say that the continental countries have been dumping their products into this country. For instance, England today is purchasing its billets from the continental companies, because she finds that, not being able to produce them at anything approaching the figure at which billets are quoted by continental producers, the wisest thing to do is to buy them from abroad and to make of them the best use she can. Barring the occasional practices of the continental cartel, Germany has always in the past offered her steel at prices which have defied competition, and, I am sure, this state of things will continue in the future, not because her lower quotations are a peculiar feature of the existing world-wide depression in trade, but because she is enabled economically to do so with the most up-to-date process and the great advantage which the bye-products of the steel industry afford to her over her rivals. It seems to me, Sir, that the Tariff Board have erred in assuming that the continental producers of steel have been dumping their goods in the Indian markets.

Now, coming to the magnitude of the protection enjoyed by the Tata Steel Company, the prize boy of the Government, though I am afraid he is going ere long to be its spoilt child—(Hear, hear)—my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has calculated the benefits which the country has conceded to Tatas in the shape of bounties, protective duties, etc., at the appalling figure of Rs. 18 crores, and one may very well ask, "Are the shareholders of the Tata industry who claim a vested interest in the works to the extent of Rs. 12½ crores, are they to be deemed the real proprietors of the concern, or is it in the nature of a life interest of the shareholders with a reversionary right to the country at large?" Is there any industry in the world, I ask, which cannot hold its own against the most formidable foreign competition if only it had at its back the magnanimity of the Government of India and the remarkably patient endurance of the people of this country? With the enormous support which has been vouchsafed to the Tata Iron and Steel Company it would not matter in the least if she imported her coal from the Welsh counties or her iron from the Pittsburgh mines.

I shall now take up the extent of the protection which the Indian industry has enjoyed and is now out to enjoy for another period of seven years. In the first place, the Tariff Board at page 63, while continuing the protection for another seven years, do not, in any part of their report, lay down that the protection shall cease to operate from the end of that period. Indeed, at page 63, they are unable to do better than most cautiously pre-sage that the industry will, within the next seven years, substantially approach the stage of being able to dispense with protection. Now, Sir, mark these words 'substantially approach'. In the first place it will merely be *an approach*, but they think that that approach will be substantial. The only interpretation that I can place on these words is that, if at the end of the seven years, that is in 1941, it is found as the result of another Tariff Board inquiry that world conditions demand a further continuance of protection, the Government and the country would be called upon to merit the further gratitude of the Tata Iron and Steel Company for another fixed term. It appears to me, Sir, that the game is being played far too long, and, as I shall show presently, the sacrifices which the country has willingly made will ultimately redound to its own increased distress. Now, Sir, I shall take up, one after another, the land-marks in the history of the protection which the Government of India has afforded to the Indian steel industry. As I have already pointed out, the Tata Industry, to begin with, possesses an initial advantage of Rs. eight on every ton of its pig iron. Then, they have the further advantage that unless something untoward happens, a definite volume of business is assured to them by the Railways of the country for a definite period of time. During the next seven years for instance, the Railways are required to place orders with them annually for 50,000 tons of rails and 3,000 tons of fishplates at Rs. 95 and Rs. 133 per ton *f. o. r.* Tatas, these being the fair selling prices arrived at by the Tariff Board.

Thirdly, one cannot fail to notice that every plausible ground for adding to the margin of the Company's profit has been exploited by the Tariff Board, for instance, the incidence of overhead charges has been distributed not at a flat rate over the various steel products but in unequal proportions on the basis of different works costs and the different capital values of the plants in use, a most novel method indeed.

Fourthly, the steel industry, instead of suffering for the inferior quality of part of its output, is being fully compensated for at the expense of the general tax-payer.

Fifthly, considerable adjustments have been made by the Tariff Board by adding to or subtracting from the so-called fair selling price of each product according to its freight advantage or disadvantage relatively to the imports in the several parts of the home markets. Adjustments such as the last two, it need hardly be pointed out, perpetuate inefficiency and reward mistakes.

Sixthly, while the Tariff Board have recommended the raising of import duties, in case the level of foreign import prices at ports goes below the fair selling prices fixed by them for Tatas products, no attempt has been made to relieve the consumer in the event of Tatas selling their products over and above the so-called fair selling prices.

[Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur.]

Two concrete instances, where they have actually exceeded in a material degree their fair selling prices, are furnished by their contracts for supply of billets, on the one hand to the Tin Plate Company at an average profit of Rs. 21 per ton, and on the other, to the Indian Wire and Wire Nails Company at a profit of Rs. 11 per ton. The volume of business involved in these two contracts is said to be about 126,000 tons.

Another note-worthy feature of the sales policy of the steel industry is that while they are selling their pig iron to companies associated with them at Rs. 30 a ton, they are actually charging Rs. 50 a ton to the Indian foundries. Such differentiation on the part of an industry, designed above all to nourish the Indian foundries, is, to say the least, highly reprehensible. But the Tariff Board would not suggest any machinery for controlling such practices nor is there one in the Bill before us. Clause 2 of the Bill, on which reliance is placed for adjustment of tariff duties in case they are found to be excessive, while in itself a most ineffective weapon for speedy action, is entirely inapplicable to cases where the steel company chooses to sell its products at prices considerably higher than the fair selling prices. In other words, the consumer in return for the large sacrifices he makes in agreeing further to protect the industry is asked to bear the additional burden of unrestricted and uncontrolled selling prices. It would, therefore, appear that unless the executive is armed with the power of controlling the fair selling prices so that no additional burden may be imposed on the consumer, the steel company will prove a veritable leach nourished and protected by the general tax-payer and consumer. Lastly, a word on the fair selling prices fixed by the Tariff Board. The fair selling price is made up of the works costs, overhead charges and manufacturer's profits. These are the factors which determine the fair selling prices in the case of normal industries, but, for an abnormal industry like the Tata Iron Steel Company, which has enjoyed and is to enjoy the unrestricted generosity of the Government of India in the shape of bounties, protective duties and sundry other advantages, two more factors have been found to be necessary in the determination of the Company's fair selling prices and these are (1) freight disadvantage, and (2) selling expenses. In respect of the latter, the Tariff Board has allowed a uniform rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the fair selling price *ex-works*. How far this allowance is justifiable, Honourable Members may judge for themselves. This allowance amounts to ten lakhs every year.

In so far as the Company's claim relates to relief against freight disadvantage in the very face of the decided advantage it possesses of lower freight rates for its wagon loads of huge consignments, the Tariff Board in paragraph 21 of their report while fully conceding that the relief afforded to the steel industry against freight disadvantage has been responsible for sharp competition with the up-country mills and for their cutting down their prices below the true commercial level, a circumstance which brings into bold relief a sum of Rs. 178 lakhs, that is to say, Rs. 29 lakhs per annum unaccounted for during the last protection period in their profit and loss statement, the Tariff Board have in Table XVIII suggested freight allowances varying from rupee one to

rupees nine per ton on different classes of their products. How far, if at all, such an allowance can enter into the determination of fair selling prices is a matter which I once again leave to this House to judge. In the calculation of the works costs, the Tariff Board have ignored the fact that in the coming years, there is a strong likelihood of further reduction in works costs on account of the improved plant, larger output and the substitution of foreign by Indian labour. I venture to submit that these factors will entail a reasonable deduction of at least 15 per cent. from the labour costs, but strangely enough, this has been altogether lost sight of by the Tariff Board.

While speaking on the labour employed in the steel works, it is perhaps necessary that I should acquaint the House with what I may call grossly inefficient management on the part of those responsible in employing 6,350 labourers in excess of the number required to produce a particular output, a fact which the Tariff Board strongly condemned in their 1926 report but of which they again, strangely enough, took no account whatever in arriving at the labour costs, though the steel company at once realised its grand mistake and reduced the number of labourers by that figure. But it must, in this connection, be remembered that, but for the fact that other iron and steel industries in the country had found it possible to produce results far more economically than the Tatas, this circumstance may have escaped entirely unnoticed. The Tariff Board, therefore, is to be pitied that, beyond the figures furnished to it by the Iron and Steel Company it has no other competitive data to go upon to arrive at a correct estimate of the works costs, nor has it at its disposal any such data from foreign producers of steel as may enable it to do so. With regard to overhead charges, which consist of depreciation, interest on working capital and expenses of Head Office and Managing Agents' commission, I am afraid the Tariff Board has wrongly calculated the annual allowance for depreciation and the replacement value of the plant. It is obvious that the value of the plant goes down from year to year, and if, as has been calculated by the Tariff Board, the depreciation in the current year is 78 lakhs, the replacement value of the plant will, to that extent, decrease in the next year and so on in each succeeding year, and, at the same time, the allowance for depreciation will be a figure which will go on varying from year to year. The Tariff Board however have estimated the replacement value of the plant at a constant figure, viz., 10½ crores and the allowance for depreciation at the perpetual flat rate of 6½ per cent. In this connection, it may be remarked that several Companies, such as the Tata Construction Company and the Indian Standard Wagon Company, owing to the fall in prices, have considerably reduced the nominal value of their capital. Mr. President, I have often heard it said that the Tatas financial condition is such that for a long number of years they have been unable to distribute any dividend to their shareholders. May I, in answer, point out that during the ten years from 1912-13 to 1921-22, the dividends actually distributed in particular years, if evenly distributed over that period, offer a percentage of no less than 11.2 to the holder of ordinary shares and about 12 per cent. on deferred shares.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : I hope they will consult you how to distribute the dividends.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : Further, in their Report of 1926, the Tariff Board say, on page 16 :

“ The Tata Iron and Steel Company has received during the last three years assistance sufficient to enable it to meet the works costs and interest on debenture and loan charges, to pay full dividends on its first preference shares and a partial dividend on its second preference shares and to set aside a substantial sum for depreciation. That the protection actually received by the Company has enabled it to survive a most difficult transitional period, not merely without losses, but in a state of improved and growing efficiency cannot, we think, be questioned.”

In 1925-26, the total amount paid by way of dividends was 35.1 lakhs. In 1926-27, it was 63.4 lakhs. Again, during the six years from 1927-28 to 1932-33, the Company raised no fresh capital, but was able to distribute 138 lakhs in dividends and to set aside as depreciation sums amounting to no less than four crores. Of this sum, three crores and two lakhs were spent on capital improvements or replacements of plant and the Tariff Board at page 12 of their latest report remark :

“ So far as we have been able to ascertain from a study of balance sheets from France, America and England, the Company has been peculiarly fortunate in being able to set aside so large a sum for depreciation.”

In a word, Sir, the embarrassment complained of seems to me to be the result of their own inefficiencies, such as *ill-judged rail contracts* which cost to the Tata industry a loss of no less than Rs. 57 on every ton and which assumed the appalling figure of 142 lakhs. This was in the two years 1921 and 1922. Then, during the last period of protection, the strike occasioned by their mis-management caused the Company a loss of about two crores—a circumstance for which it can blame no one but itself. And lastly, as pointed out by me, the employment of extravagant labour for successive years meant to the Company a loss of several lakhs of rupees which might well have been saved and distributed by way of dividends to the shareholders. Then, Sir, I would briefly refer to my Minute of Dissent in which I have raised the broad question that it is the primary duty of the Tata Iron Industry, as the mother industry, to act as a feeder to the re-rolling mills by supplying their requirements of billets. Sir, my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, in his speech on the 31st July, 1934, said :

“ If the Tata Iron and Steel Company desire to be regarded as a great national industry and as a great national asset, if they desire this country to make substantial sacrifices over a substantial period of time to set them securely on their feet, then, I say, it is up to them to realize and to implement their obligations to the smaller ancillary industries of the country.”

Sir, if protection is to be granted to this industry for another period of seven years—and protection to the extent to which it is sought to be granted—then, I say, there must be some machinery which will compel this mother industry to supply the requirements of the re-rolling mills. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair would like to ask Honourable Members to be as brief as possible, because it is necessary that the debate on the Steel Bill should be concluded before Lunch.

Mr. B. Das : Sir, I rise to read the funeral oration over the steel industry and all industries in India. Sir, with regard to the fiscal convention policy which was adopted so far, the Grand Moghul of Whitehall has willed that there should be no more any fiscal convention in

India. There should be merely some amount of protection to certain Indian industries, and the Government of India, being mere servants of the Secretary of State, have carried out that command of Whitehall, and even at times, as we experienced in the matter of the 1930 Cotton Textile Bill, they also went a little further than what the Secretary of State commanded them to do. Sir, to the point that was raised by my Leader, Mr. K. C. Neogy, as to whether the proviso to sub-clause (4) of clause 2 of the Bill will not work against the interests of the consumers, the Honourable the Commerce Member made a halting reply and he said something to the effect that—"why should we give a worse treatment to the United Kingdom than we give to other foreign countries?" But the point is that when the United Kingdom dumps steel goods at uneconomic prices on India, where is the scheme of protection? The Honourable the Leader of the House has vouchsafed no reply to that point. Of course one can understand the difficulties of the Honourable the Commerce Member—he had to bow to the Whitehall Moghul and there is no other alternative! Then, Sir, with regard to this idea which is so much trotted out—the consumers' interests—the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment, but there we were defeated, and we could not provide a clause safeguarding the point; we have come to know how the Government change the basis of their tariff system because we know that they, at the command of the Great Moghul of Whitehall, are going behind us, and any criticism or control from this side of the House is of no avail, and is, therefore, resented. (Applause.)

Sir, this Bill is a Bill for Imperial Preference or for giving preference to the United Kingdom. The other day I spoke about the principle of Imperial Preference that has found place throughout this Bill. To add to the trouble there is that vicious excise duty which will further undermine the progress of the steel industry in India. I would like to draw the attention of the House and of the Treasury Benches to a Reuter's telegram about India's trade with Belgium. The *Hindustan Times* made the following head-lines: "How India will pay for preference to Britain. Sequel to New Steel Duties. Belgian markets may be lost to this country." The Reuter's statement says:

"It is pointed out that the special Steel Agreement concluded after the Ottawa Agreement practically excluded Belgium from the market for galvanised sheets. The new tariffs increase the preference enjoyed by Great Britain as regards certain steel products, for example, girders and sheets over one-eighth inch in thickness, while maintaining the existing preference for galvanised and corrugated sheets.

It is further pointed out that Belgium has an adverse balance of trade with India amounting to over Rs. 14 million according to trade returns for 1931-32, Belgian imports from India amounting to Rs. 44½ million, while exports were only Rs. 30 millions. Industrial circles are reported to be considering the desirability of purchasing supplies of raw cotton, oil seeds, hemp oil-cakes, jute, rice, zinc ore, etc., which have hitherto been obtained from India from countries treating Belgium more equitably."

This is a Reuter's message and as Reuter is known to be the official news-vendor of the British Government, it must be more than true. Therefore, though I am not discussing here the results of the Ottawa Report, this bit of news has not only alarmed me, but the whole country and the commercial community throughout India that India would lose trade with Belgium worth 44½ millions of rupees simply because Britain has forced Imperial Preference through this Steel Bill. This Imperial

[Mr. B. Das.]

Preference idea has not worked at all. I was rather pleasantly surprised because I hold similar views as contained in the State telegram from Australia. It is a telegram from London about Australia. It says :

“ Commenting on the dispute between Lancashire and Australia in regard to the new Australian cotton duties, the *Melbourne Age*, the chief Australian Protectionist organ, says that Australians are entitled to feel amazement at the resentment roused in other countries by their efforts to stabilize their country's industry, which is vital to their industrial life and their national defence.”

I wish my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, when he rises to speak, uses similar words. Further the paper observes :

“ Britain has not allowed the Ottawa Agreement to hamper her in her trade bargains with foreigners, while suggesting serious readjustments to the Dominions. Both in Britain and in the Dominions the Ottawa Agreement has been acting as a constant irritant and the Agreement is increasingly being recognised as an egregious blunder.”

Sir, I am also of the opinion that the Ottawa Agreement with India has worked as an egregious blunder with the result that it has perverted the principle of this Steel Protection Bill. Only the other day I was speaking, and I wish to make it clear again that I do recognise that to-day the world has come to a position when nations throughout the world must control their trade and commerce by means of trade agreements. Unfortunately, India's trade being overshadowed by the idea of Imperial Preference is being controlled by the United Kingdom. I do make a suggestion that if England wants quota of trade in all schemes of protection and if she wants an Indo-British Trade Agreement with India, let it be examined in all its aspects. The Honourable the Commerce Member said the other day that he was not going to consult directly the commercial bodies about this Indo-British trade agreement, but he had no doubt that he would be in a position to know the views of the commercial community in this matter. Probably, my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, wants the back-door negotiations through my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, or through the representatives of the European Group here, or through some other invisible channel. But I would ask him to be fair to the country at large. Let the Government of India issue a communique to the country saying that they are negotiating such and such trade conventions basing the same under the principles of the Ottawa Agreement. Let them also say that they do desire to bring in the protected industries under that Agreement as already conceded through Indo-Japanese Agreement. And let the Government after issuing that communique ask commercial bodies to let them know their views in the matter. Sir, I would be very reluctant to support such Agreements, but when the protected industries are forcibly brought under the Ottawa preferential system, then it is better to let the whole India know what the results of all these negotiations are going to be. If we are going to lose our trade with European countries, as we will lose trade worth Rs. 44 millions with Belgium and we may also lose greater sums with Germany and other countries, then let us face the whole thing. Then, if the Government of India cannot have the courage to speak out to the British Government, there is the League of Nations. Let us get an economic expert from the League of Nations. Let him arbitrate and find out what will be the trade facilities that India will give to England and what England will give to India. Sir, it is

better to face it fairly and squarely than to face it through the back-door.

Probably my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, and the owners of the Tata Steel Company are jubilant that they have got something, but five years hence they will sing their own funeral dirge and then they will say : " We wish there was no protection ". I do not wish to criticise certain remarks that were made against me by Mr. Anklesaria or the astounding remarks that we heard today from Mr. Muazzam Sahib that the Tatas ordinary shareholders would get or would have got eleven per cent. Sir, Mr. Anklesaria told us the other day that they would have got 46 per cent. I am always very much frightened about the fate of Dr. Dalal's widows at Bombay. I know how the widows of the Parsce community have invested all their savings in the Tatas Steel concern as they had great faith in Jamshedji Tata. I know that the fate of these widows are hanging on the descendants of Jamshedji. These widows, who invested their mite in the Tata Steel Industry, have got no dividend on their ordinary shares for the last five or six years. My surmise is that they will not get any dividend for years to come. They could have got a dividend had there been a real scheme of protection but this is no scheme of protection.

I have written in my Minute of Dissent that there is every possibility of Great Britain dumping steel into India. They will have simply to change their bill of lading, they will bring steel from Belgium and Germany and they will dump it on India and it will pass as British steel and India will have to pay through its nose while the Indian steel concern will continue its chequered career. I do not know what will be my last word on this Bill. On principle I am opposed to it. I would be no party to the excise duty on a protected industry so viciously brought out under the disguise of a protection Bill. The Government ought to have waited till the next Budget Session to consider whether such an excise duty is necessary and is equitable on the steel industry. As this excise duty has been levied, and, further, as no safeguard in the interest of the consumer has been permitted by Government to be introduced by us in the body of the Bill, and, further, as the Bill savours of protection to British steel, my own view is that my vote will be against it if anybody challenges a division.

Mr. H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association : Indian Commerce) : Sir, when I spoke on the motion for reference to a Select Committee I pointed out the various unsatisfactory features of the Bill, some of which I regarded as in the nature of a violation of fundamental principles. I am very glad to be able today to strike a less controversial note. Governments, as we all know, like ordinary mortals suffer from many frailties. They become obstinate at times and arrogate to themselves an omniscience and wisdom which really only belong to the Gods. But when the error of their ways is pointed out to them gently and persistently, they become tolerably reasonable, and that is what has happened in the present case. I congratulate my Honourable friends on the Opposite Benches on the spirit of accommodation they have shown, and on the attitude they have adopted towards the Opposition's criticisms on the original Bill. Sir, we all know of twins—accidents will happen in the best of regulated families—but the Bill before us has the unique distinction of having twin fathers. One of them, Sir, was new to the business and had to be shown how to rear up the infant in the

[Mr. H. P. Mody.]

first critical stages of its existence. (Laughter.) I must say that he has shown himself as very adaptable, and, when I congratulate my Honourable friends opposite, I specially congratulate my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, on the wisdom he has shown in respect of several of our most important contentions. I am sure that his first real 'debut' before the House has been very greatly improved by the consideration he has extended to the Opposition.

Sir, the only fly in the ointment is the excise duty. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, the other day charged the industry with not having objected to the excise. He charged us with surrender of our objections, because we were getting some concessions. That is not so. I always try and take severely practical views. I do not dash my head against a brick wall (Hear, hear) ; it may be heroic to do so but I would rather preserve my head. The Irishman put it in his own inimitable way when he said, it was better to be a coward for five minutes than to be a dead man all your life. (Laughter.) Sir, I am not a coward. I am not running away from the fight, I am beating a strategic retreat with all my weapons of offence and defence intact and I promise my Honourable friend opposite that I shall return again and again to the attack, but at my own time and when I find the opportunity more favourable.

I recognise that at this stage of the discussion there is very little to be said, and I am not going to detain the House with any lengthy disquisition on the need for protection for the steel industry, and on the gains which such protection would bring to the country and the industry. I want very briefly to refer to some of the points which have been raised in the course of the discussion. My Honourable friend, Dr. Zia-uddin Ahmad, talked of invisible profits. My Honourable friend lives in a mathematical world of his own, and whether it is a Tariff Bill or a Navy Discipline Bill, he can always be depended upon to produce a balance sheet. His balance sheet is altogether wrong. I am afraid he has not understood the scheme outlined in the report. It is just possible that as he had read all the previous seven reports he had forgotten to read the present one. (Laughter.) My Honourable friend, Mr. Muazzam Sahib, raised the question of the dividends paid by the Tatas. I do not know where he got his figures from. The other day, my Honourable friend, Mr. Anklesaria, talked of 1,200 per cent. That sounds somewhat improbable ! However, the actual facts are that in the last six years no dividend has been paid on the ordinary and deferred shares, and for the whole period of six years which are covered by the protection which is now to be supplanted by this measure, the return made by the Steel Company to its shareholders on the capital invested in the industry is just 1.83 per cent. on the average. I do not know where the 12 per cent. and 1,200 per cent. come from. My Honourable friend, Mr. Pandya, has been very inquisitive about our next balance sheet. I do not know why he should be so curious about this matter. I can say without revealing any secret that we *may* be able to pay a dividend this year as my friends will see when in its own good time the balance sheet will come out !

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : It is already five months.

An Honourable Member : What about ordinary shares ?

Mr. H. P. Mody : I might say that there is little possibility of our being able to pay the ordinary shareholders for some time to come.

An Honourable Member : What are they putting in the depreciation fund ?

Mr. H. P. Mody : The amount that should be properly debited to the depreciation fund in any well-managed concern, and which Government have always insisted upon. I remember, some years ago, when the Company wanted to pay a dividend,—I was not connected with it and so I cannot speak from my own personal knowledge,—Government insisted upon a proper provision for depreciation.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Any arrears of interest on preference shares ?

Mr. H. P. Mody : Yes, there are arrears of as much as Rs. 63 per share on the second preference shares. I advise my Honourable friends to live in hope.

There was another point raised, Sir, and that was by the Leader of the European Group. He wanted to know from me what our attitude was towards the coke industry. Well, Sir, greatly as I sympathise with the point of view of those who have asked my Honourable friend to raise the point, and much, as I appreciate the attitude which he and his friends on the European Benches have adopted towards this Bill, I am afraid I am not in a position to give an answer which they will regard as satisfactory. Sir, scientific developments must take place, and they must displace old methods ; the Tariff Board themselves have commented upon the fact that we are going to have more coke ovens of an improved type, and they have taken that into their calculation of the fair selling prices. In those circumstances it is quite impossible for the Company to continue to buy coke, when it will be in a position, more economically and more efficiently, to manufacture the product on its own, and also to utilise the gases which would be released from such manufacture.

Now, Sir, another point which has been raised and which demands notice is with reference to the question of differential and preferential duties. So far as differential duties are concerned, the case is very simple. Differential duties are essentially based on the interests of the consumer, and, so long as they are genuinely based on that consideration no one can possibly object to them, even though in the result a particular country may stand to benefit considerably. It is when we come to the question of preferential duties that we enter the region of controversy, where it is possible for various points of view to be taken. During the last few weeks, since this Bill was published, I have been sarcastically asked in various quarters how I have liked this latest development of the Ottawa spirit and the spirit of the Indo-Lancashire Pact. Sir, my answer is very plain. I stand exactly where I have stood for the last few years. I feel that in view of the fact that Great Britain and India are the largest customers of each other, and in view of the intimate connection which exists between the two countries, a closer Indo-British co-operation is essential in the interests of both. But there are certain fundamental conditions which have to be satisfied. The parties must be

[Mr. H. P. Mody.]

at arms' length, they must be absolutely in a position of independence ; the parties must be in a position to safeguard their own interests ; and they must be prepared to show a spirit of accommodation. It is when these conditions are satisfied that I stand for preferential arrangements, whether you call them Imperial Preference or anything else you like. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, the other day took up an absolutely correct position. He said it was not a question of sentiment with him, it was a question of hard business. I take up the same position. It may be that from my predilections I import a little sentiment into the matter, but if I have anything to do with such an arrangement, I will look first and foremost to the interests of our country, just as my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, and others would be expected to do. It is precisely because I take up this stand that I protested vehemently against the proposal of the Tariff Board, which was embodied in the Bill, to do away with the revenue duties on certain types of British manufacture. I held that that was going far beyond not only the requirements of the case, but the spirit of the arrangements which have prevailed in the last few years ; and it is a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me today to be able to strike a different note altogether, and to recognise that with the removal of our objections, the Bill has become much more acceptable.

Sir, before I conclude, I plead for a more whole-hearted recognition of the needs of national industries like steel, cotton and others ; I plead for a more informed interest and for a changed outlook. What is the scheme of discriminating protection which the Legislature and the country have adopted ? The scheme is based upon several conditions, the foremost of which is that the industry which is to be protected must have certain natural advantages, and must be conducted with a certain measure of efficiency. When that happens, naturally the burden on the consumer, which in the first few years may be considerable, is gradually being lightened and ultimately done away with ; in other words, the industry must be in a position in normal circumstances and faced with normal competition to be able to manufacture just as efficiently and perhaps just as cheaply as any other country. When that happens, Sir, there can be no question of the interests of the consumer. A great deal of loose talk has been heard in the last few years about these interests, generally on the part of people who move about in Rolls-Royces and look very prosperous. Well, Sir, the poor consumer has not got a square deal, because most of the arguments which I have heard about him have been wholly irrelevant. And, Sir, to those who talk of the consumer's interests and of the necessity of modifying or doing away with all protection, I would point out the example of Great Britain, the stronghold of free trade up to within the last few years. What did Great Britain do only very recently with regard to one of its basic industries which was the pioneer of heavy industries throughout the world, namely, the United Kingdom steel industry ? Here is an order issued in 1932 :

" We are satisfied that the maintenance of a prosperous iron and steel industry, in the highest degree of efficiency, is essential to the economic progress of this country, whilst from the point of view of national security it must still be regarded as vital. We accept, therefore, the preliminary proposition that this industry must be adequately protected and protected at once."

That, Sir, is what Great Britain has been doing. We in India, who are still in the infancy of our industrial development, need to do a great deal more, at least in the first few years ; and it is only in proportion as we show our determination to help industrial development in this country that we shall be able to hold our position in the world. Sir, I do not want to harp upon this point. I have had various opportunities of expounding it and probably I shall have a few more. All that I wish to say in conclusion is that it has been a most gratifying experience to me that for the first time there has been a Tariff Bill which has not evoked any adverse criticism, that there has been so much sympathy shown towards a national industry, and so much good will exhibited by every section of the House. Sir, it is very gratifying, I am sure, to the steel company that it should have earned so much sympathy at the hands of every Member of this House ; I can only say that I hope it will continue to serve, more and more efficiently and more and more zealously, if possible, the true interests of the country. (Applause.)

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh : Muhammadan

12 NOON.

Rural) : Mr. President, the Tata Iron and Steel Company is the embodiment of Indian business foresight and business enterprise. It is a living memorial to one of India's greatest sons. I am, therefore, very glad that this great national asset is to be fostered by granting protection for a further period of seven years. But I must say that I shall be false to my honest convictions if I did not mention certain difficulties and misgivings which I feel on this occasion.

In the course of my speech during the discussion on the motion to refer to the Select Committee the Textile Protection Bill, I stated in March last that no scheme of tariffs should, in my humble opinion, involve any relaxation of the policy of protection introduced for the purpose of fostering that industry. It should not also provoke international ill-will ; but, on the other hand, it should promote friendly economic understandings. I feel that this Bill is unsatisfactory in both these respects. When protection was originally granted, we felt that Tatas would prosper and new Iron and Steel Works would come into existence and that India would be more or less self-contained as regards her iron and steel requirements. We did not want either the British or the continental steel to come to our rescue and that Tatas would supply only a portion of the Indian requirements. We, therefore, feel that the relaxation of protection in favour of England as embodied in this Bill was uncalled for at this present juncture. Coal is another national asset and is of vital concern and interest in the manufacture of steel and pig iron in India : we are, therefore, concerned with their manufacture in India and not in their import from abroad inasmuch as Tatas alone consume 1½ million tons of coal annually. Belgium is already feeling alarmed at the new preferential duties embodied in this Bill. It is pointed out that the special steel agreement concluded after the Ottawa Agreement practically excluded Belgium from the Indian market for galvanised sheets. Now, it is contended that this new tariff will increase the preference already enjoyed by Great Britain as regards steel products, while maintaining the existing preference for the sheets. Industrial circles in Belgium are reported to be considering the desirability of purchasing

[Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi.]

from other countries their supplies of raw cotton, oil seeds, hemp, oil-cakes, rice, zinc ore, etc., which have hitherto been obtained from India. It is also pointed out that Belgium has an adverse balance of trade with India, amounting to over 14 millions of rupees for which the British preference is said to be responsible. The Fiscal Commission report pronounced definitely against disturbances of commercial conditions of this character. It is stated on page 50 :

“ Our conclusions therefore are that in the interests of the consumers generally and particularly the masses of the people, in the interests of agriculture, in the interests of steady industrial progress and for the maintenance of a favourable balance of trade, the policy of protection which we recommend should be applied with discrimination so as to make the inevitable burden on the community as light as is consistent with the due development of industries and to avoid an abrupt disturbance of industrial and commercial conditions.”

Give by all means preference to the British steel. Give it preference in accordance with the Ottawa Agreement and for the benefit of India ; but do not engender commercial hostilities by the exclusion of all other steel. Our foreign trade should not be allowed to be restricted by retaliation and boycott from other countries, as England cannot possibly take all that India will be in a position to export. Some of us have supported the excise duty. We had to support it, because we were told that, unless we supported this excise duty, Government would not be prepared to give this protection which was necessary in the interests of this national industry. We had, therefore, to support it as the lesser of the two evils ; but it has unduly burdened the consumers. What is the use of a promise that it will be taken away at the earliest possible moment ? We have these promises year in and year out ; what was the promise made when the jute tax was imposed during the war ? Has that been taken away even now ? It is still in the budget : we find it going on ; even after the war was over in 1918, we find it still in the budget of 1934. Therefore, instead of the Government saying : “ We shall take it off as soon as possible, a definite promise should have been made that in the course of two or three years or one year—just as it suits the Government—this excise duty will be taken away, and we shall find means to balance our budget by finding revenue from other sources. That has not been said. But here is a promise that they will, at the earliest opportunity, take it away ! I also appeal to the Tatas about the galvanised sheets. I appeal to them to reduce their price as far as possible, because it is a thing which is required by the poor masses for making their huts, not only in Bengal, but in Bihar and other Provinces as well. Another unfortunate omission which I find is about the curtailment of the period of the burden of this protection. The Fiscal Commission at page 49 of their Report definitely lay down :

“ The duration of the burden will also be extended if protection operates to prolong inefficient methods of production.”

I think that they should be given a fixed period in which they should stand on their legs in order that they will no longer require any more protection. That has not been done in this Bill.

Mr. President, there is another danger, the danger of a combination of manufacturers. By combining with other Indian manufacturers.

prices of steel have been raised to the detriment of the consumers, and the Fiscal Commission say on this point at page 47 of their Report :

“ Another undesirable feature which the history of protectionist countries discloses is the tendency towards combinations of manufacturers for the purpose of exploiting the domestic consumer.”

There is, again, the danger of political corruption. May I refer, with your permission, once more to the Report of the Fiscal Commission where they say :

“ Moreover, we think that the system which we propose, whereby the enquiry into the conditions of each industry will be conducted by an impartial body with the utmost publicity, and the conclusions arrived at and the reasons for them will be known to the public when the case of the industry comes before the Legislature, will reduce the opportunities for political corruption to a minimum.”

What is the position that we find ? The Tariff Board reports to the Government and the Report is kept by the Government for months and months and years. It does not see the light of day, and what we see is that the Government consider the Report and come before the House with a Bill and then present us with the Tariff Board's Report. That was not the intention, that was not what the Fiscal Commission desired. The Fiscal Commission wanted that the Tariff Board's Report should be published much before the Bill is introduced in this House for public criticism. The Government should take note of the public criticism of the Tariff Board's report, and sufficient time should be given to the public to go into the Report and point out the defects of the Report and place them before the Government before they come in with a Bill on the Report of the Tariff Board. What did we see during the last Delhi Session ? The Tariff Board's Report on cotton textiles was in the hands of the Government for more than 18 months, and it was presented to the House with the Textile (Protection) Bill. Even then the evidence was not forthcoming. We did not know whether the conclusions of the Tariff Board were justified or not as the evidence was neither published nor given to us for our consideration to enable us to judge whether the Tariff Board's Report was well-founded or not.

Sir, I, along with my Honourable friends, again offer the firm of Talas our heartiest good wishes and may the great industry which they have established in India prosper and may it also be the forerunner in India of similar industries to come, so that India may be free from all foreign importations of steel. Sir, I support the Bill.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, we are just on the eve of closing this drama. Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya pointed out the other day, *miyan bibi hon jab razi, to phir kya karsake Qazi*, and he called me the Qazi. He knows that the object of the Qazi is only to write the protocol, and I am simply just to certify what actually happens in this particular drama.

Yesterday, when I moved my last amendment, the Honourable the Leader of the House pointed out that, out of respect to the unanimous demand of the Leaders of all the Parties, he extended the operation of this Act from September to November. I thank him for the great respect he has shown to the Leaders, but, unfortunately, this is the only occasion during the last four years that such respect was shown. May I ask him, as the Leader of the House, whether he will show the same respect in connection with the amendment of Sir Abdur Rahim on the Army Bill, or will

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

he not ? I am sure that he will not. I am not going to take up much of the time of the House in arguments as I should like to finish my speech within 20 minutes. I would just like to enumerate my objections without giving reasons, for the reasons have already been given during the second reading of the Bill. The first is that the Government have not placed before us the balance sheet of the Tatas, the evidence before the Tariff Board, or the representations that had been made to the Government, and I doubt very much whether the balance sheet was examined either by the Government or by the Tariff Board. The second is that the Government is rushing through the Bill with precipitous haste. No publicity was given to the Tariff Board's Report and the Provincial Governments were not asked to collect opinions as to the effect of the protection on consumers and small industries, and this is contrary to the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission at page 56. My third complaint is that the six per cent. interest allowed on working capital is rather too high. The Tariff Board in 1930, when the Government was floating their loans at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. recommended only five per cent., but now, in the year of grace 1934, when the Government is floating their loans at three per cent., the rate has been raised from five to six by the Tariff Board. We have thus given them $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs extra. My fourth complaint is, and in this case the commercial world will be shocked to hear, that the Government and the Tariff Board have recommended a new form of incidence of profit for the Tatas. The profit is not calculated on the working cost, as usually is the case, but on the capital value of the concern, and they have allowed profit at eight per cent. I thought that a profit of ten per cent. on working cost should have been ample. The profit of eight per cent. capital works out over 40 per cent. on the working cost, and I want to know whether it is justice or it is loot ?

Fifthly, depreciation is calculated at too high a figure.

Again, it is mentioned on page 12 of the Report, that during the last six years, out of 400 lakhs given for the depreciation fund, 302 were spent on capital improvement. Now, this capital expenditure and capital improvement will add to the capitalized value of the concern and on the occasion of the next protection we will have to give eight per cent. profit on this new investment. It will be a profit on the profit, which is really a confirmed profit. Then, in calculating the fair selling price, the Tariff Board has also added the freight from Tatanagar to the port which I have objected, as it is contrary to the recommendation of the Fiscal Commission on page 58, paragraph 105.

The Tariff Board has also added beside this an allowance under the name of sale commission at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Sir, I have repeatedly said that the sale policy of Tata Steel Company is exceedingly objectionable, not only from the point of view of the consumers but from the point of view of smaller industries and no attempt has been made to control the selling price and the selling system. Here, I just enter slightly into communalism. A Pathan was talking to a Parsi dissuading him from joining the Army. He said : " It involved great risk of life. Leave the Army to us and we will defend India and we are really the fittest persons to do it ". The Parsi agreed, but he retorted immediately : " In the case of steel, leave the manufacture and distribution to us and you act the part of con-

sumers only. Let us have a division of labour, you do the consuming part and we will do the manufacturing and distributing part ”.

We accepted the recommendation of the Tariff Board *in toto* except in so far that wherever it was demanded we increased the quantum of protection, as a matter of compromise or as a matter of expediency I have simply to write the ‘protocol’. This is a point I do not like to discuss but the fact remains that the quantum of protection was increased by the Select Committee and Government too readily accepted it.

The Tariff Board failed to understand and the Government have followed them—wherever the revenue duty is levied, it increases the quantum of protection and on page 54 they say clearly that no protection was needed, but when they came to the appendix they actually recommended that revenue duty should be added to it. Both the Tariff Board and the Government have failed to understand this particular question. We have seen it in the case of sugar that we did not put down the additional revenue duty but we counterbalanced by levying an excise duty. My friend, Seth Abdoola Haroon, though he may be heavier than Mr. Mody in weight, but has not got the same influence in protecting his sugar as Mr. Mody has got in protecting his steel.

The fair selling price which the Tariff Board has recommended was fixed by a number of considerations but the fair selling price will not in practice be the *de facto* price. This is a point which we emphasized. Mr. Pandya moved an amendment but it was ruled out of order, on the ground that this Bill was not the proper place to fix the price, but I hope that the Government would take the matter up and bring forward, either by executive or by legislative action, measures to enforce that the fair selling price should be the *de facto* price and there should not be a difference between the *de facto* price and the selling price. I appeal once more. This is the last occasion and we are finishing the drama quickly. Steel and all these things will be sold at the price at which the foreign articles will be imported in Bombay after paying the duty, and if you take the difference between the fair selling price, as calculated by the Tariff Board and the price at which the foreign article will be imported in Bombay, then take the difference between the two and multiply by the quantity which the Tata is going to sell, and then you will obtain additional profit of 91 lakhs 60 thousand, and this profit I call the invisible profit, because Government have not taken any action to compel Tata to sell the things at the fair selling price. They will sell at the higher price and difference between the higher price and the fair selling price multiplied by the quantity will be an invisible profit which works out to 91,60,000. In addition to this, there are two other profits which I call the latent profits, and the fourth is, what is called *lubhaw*, that is the extra that we get when we buy any article, something more for grinding the teeth or something over and above. This *lubhaw* is another 18 lakhs. That is in connection with pig iron. The profit of Tatas on pig iron alone will be 18 lakhs. This is a profit which has not been put down anywhere. This is what I call *lubhaw* or fee for grinding the teeth.

As the pig iron was not discussed in detail in the second reading, I just take a few minutes to mention it. I shall be within my time. In 1929 and 1930, we exported 568,000 tons of pig iron and in 1933-34, we exported 377,000. Our capacity to produce pig iron is 15 lakhs a year,

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

and the total consumption in India is 650 lakhs, that is less than half. We will have to export the rest. We are, in fact, the dumping country. We dump pig iron on other countries according to the definition of dumping mentioned by the Fiscal Commission on page 77, and dumping means selling at a cheaper rate outside India than the rate at which we sell in the Indian market. The amount of dumping is measured by the difference between export and home prices. And here we find that the manufacturers sell pig iron to outside countries by Rs. 11 per ton cheaper than their sale price in India. The manufacturing cost of the pig iron, according to the report published by Tata themselves, is Rs. 18 per ton and they are selling it to foreign countries at Rs. 38-4-0 per ton and the internal price is Rs. 49-4-0 per ton. The Tariff Board report on pig iron recommended, four years ago, that the duty on pig iron ought to be removed and they very clearly said that if that duty is removed, then the price of pig iron in the market will come down by Rs. five per ton (page 7, Tariff Report on Pig Iron). The Report says :

“ We have been informed that if the duty on pig iron is removed the price of pig iron sold in the bazaar will be reduced by Rs. 5.”

Now, the amount of revenue from import duty derived from pig iron is very very small. Taking the figures of the last three years, the revenue is only Rs. 35,000 per annum. That is the whole of the revenue from pig iron, but the cost of the consumers in India will amount to Rs. 32,50,000 which I obtain by multiplying the quantity consumed in India by Rs. 5. I call this “ bad economy ”. If the Government, for the sake of their Rs. 35,000, are prepared to put a burden on the consumer to the extent of 32½ lakhs, then I call it really bad economy and the time has really now come when we ought to remove this particular duty.

Now, I come to the profit of Tatas. They export 145,000 tons, and their Indian sale is 30 lakhs, which, when worked out, comes to over 18 lakhs, and this I call the *lubhaw*. The overhead charges and profits have already been calculated on other articles. Then with regard to the price of galvanized sheets, I said the last time that we can easily afford to sell it at Rs. 150 a ton, but I think a price of Rs. 160 per ton is plenty enough and, I think, we ought to take some steps so that the galvanized sheets ought not to be sold at a price higher than Rs. 160 per ton.

Now, I come to the two points of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody. I entirely agree with him that there should be some kind of co-operation between India and England, but unfortunately, though he advocated co-operation, he did not show any kind of co-operation when we came to the discussion of this particular Bill and he insisted that there should be a duty of ten per cent. *ad valorem* on British goods, when this duty was not needed for protective purposes. I ask—is it co-operation or non-co-operation ?

I do not object to discriminating protection. But what I do insist upon is—have differential protection but not to such an extent as to stop all trade with foreign countries. The quantum of discrimination is expressed in astronomical figures which are given in this Bill. The protection is exorbitant, and, I am afraid, it would result in the derangement of our trade with foreign countries.

The next thing is that the period of protection is too long. Instead of seven years, it ought to have been five years. I have given my reasons in the second reading of the Bill. Sir, we have been requesting all the time that whenever any protective measure is passed, the Government should set up a machinery to examine the accounts and the balance sheets of all the Companies to whom protection was given. Now this thing has not been done. There is an additional disadvantage in this case that in other articles there may be internal competition which would keep the price down but in this case there is no internal competition and the Tatas can dictate their prices. Therefore, in the interests of the consumer, Government, I hope, will take some action, so that this particular thing will be attended to.

Sir, now I come to their profit account. I don't say profit, and also accounts, because the column for loss does not exist.

PROFITS.

Visible.

Rs. in Lakhs.

1. Saving from interest on working capital estimated at 11 lakhs at 6 p. c. Real rate at 4 p. c. (page 43, Report)	..	..	4
2. Manufacture profits (page 43)	..	..	100

Invisible.

3. Multiply quantities (page 45) by difference between fair selling f. o. r. Tatanagar (page 45) and duty paid price landed at port (page 54) quantum and duty is given in the Bill	91
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Lubhaw.

4. Pig iron	18
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Latent.

5. Profits which no outsider can find out. It includes profit from a number of smaller things manufactured by Company, differential prices when foreign stock may not be available, etc.	12
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Total .. 225

I expected a speech from Mr. Mody in the earlier stages, it might have solved some of the difficulties, but he preferred to have his earlier speeches behind the curtain and preferred to have his last speech at a time when we cannot derive any benefit from his speeches. He leaves the world to draw their own inferences. Sir, the last thing I should say is that I am afraid the drama that we have played this week will be re-played again in 1941 and the protection that we are giving now, I am afraid, will remain perpetual. The same factors with greater force will operate again.

Sir, before I sit down, I will only say that the Tata Company would put a tablet in gold engraving—"to commemorate the generous gift of sixteen crores from the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the greatest patron of the Tata Company". (Hear, hear.) Sir, in another small village, which is known as Murdanagar, there will be small tablet: "Here lies buried the hopes of Indian consumers and of the small industries in iron and steel as the result of the action of our own countrymen. God save us from our friends!" (Loud Applause.)

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it is extremely regrettable that Government could not see their way to reduce the rate of excise duty per ton of steel even by eight annas. It seems, the whole idea, Sir, is not only to recoup the loss of revenue due to the lowering of the duties, but also to make as much money as possible in order to do away with the five per cent. salary reduction. Spokesmen on behalf of the Tatas have boasted time and again that the Jamshedpur Institute has been thoroughly indianised. The Tariff Board also agreed with this contention. I admit, Sir, that a large number of foreign employees have been replaced by Indians. But that is not Indianisation in full. As I once stated in this House, a great Japanese commercial magnate once said :

“ The secret of success in Japan's industrial regeneration lies in the fact that in a concern in Japan the highest-paid employee never receives more than four times the lowest-paid worker.”

But what do we find in Tatas ? While one Indian gets Rs. 8,000 a month, another gets eight annas a day ! This is not Indianization in its true sense. The real spirit of Indianization should take account of pay, pension and other conditions of living adaptable to Indian life and Indian environments.

Sir, I will now come to the grievances of Oriyas in Jamshedpur. The condition of Oriyas in Jamshedpur is worse than that of Indians in the Army in India. They are treated like helots and bondsmen in their own soil.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : On a point of order, Sir. Since my amendment was ruled out of order, could this subject about the Oriyas be brought in ?

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra : In spite of the fact that the house of Tatas have enriched themselves with the hidden wealth of our country, our men are only hewers of wood and drawers of water in Jamshedpur ! I shall read a small passage from a pamphlet recently distributed by a Muhammadan gentleman from Lahore as to what non-Oriyas feel about us :

“ It is now to be seen that this Singhbhum district which in reality is an Oriya tract, and the mines of the Steel Company are also located within different Oriya States, but no or few Oriyas are there in the services of the Steel Company. Their absence is a glaring instance of injustice done to the sons of the soil.”

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Tatanagar is not in Orissa—it is in Chota Nagpur.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :

“ It is true that the present generation of Oriyas is not enlightened enough to work the gift of God that nature has given to them, by themselves. But the cold fact that the mineral wealth of a Province, when once taken out from it, is gone for ever, has also to be faced. So, why not leave it where it is, till the Oriyas will be able to work it themselves. In every nationalistic book it is pointed out with great éclat that foreigners should not be allowed to exploit the mineral wealth of India, but should leave it where the nature has put it till the sons of the soil will be able to develop it for themselves, and this is economically very true as well. But why not begin charity at home ? Why not let the Oriyas have a hand in the working of the Steel Company ? It may or may not be true that ‘ the developers of yesterday are the exploiters of today ’, but the Tata Company at least can encourage the Oriyas to learn how to do the developing, before only blaming the foreigners and the Europeans for doing what they themselves are doing.”

Sir, this is what the non-Oriyas speak about us. But I had a talk with the authorities of the Tatas, and I have acquainted them with the grievances of Oriyas at Jamshedpur. I fervently hope that they will henceforth have a soft corner for the sons of the soil in their hearts and our grievances will be removed.

Sir, I take this opportunity to offer my sincere congratulations to the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore on the eve of the passage of a Bill that will give much relief to consumers. Sir, I have done.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I cannot join with Mr. Mody in congratulating the Honourable the Commerce Member for getting through this Bill in this House without any amendments whatsoever. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, could find only a fly in the ointment, that fly being the excise duty. My Honourable friend is doing more than injustice to himself by comparing the protection given to an ointment. It would have been more appropriate if he had said that he has been given honey with only one fly in it. Sir, it is quite natural that he should feel elated, because he has got a substantial measure of protection for the Tatas iron and steel products in this country as against the continent. On the other hand, we on this side discern a number of flies in the honey, that honey being the protection duty that is given to the Tatas with preferences to British articles. Sir, we find that substantial preferences are given to the British goods as against the Continental goods and also a large measure of protection has been granted to the Tatas as against the Continental goods. It has been repeatedly said by the Honourable the Commerce Member that they have been guided by the fair selling price arrived at by the Tariff Board. I agree with my Honourable friends, Mr. Ghuznavi and Dr. Ziauddin, when they say that the evidence tendered before the Tariff Board has not been placed before us to judge how the Tariff Board were able to arrive at fair selling prices. On the other hand, we have been told by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and Muazzam Sahib that the Tariff Board, in arriving at this fair selling price, has given liberal allowances to the Tatas in the matter of giving 2½ per cent. as sale's commission and allowing large margin for freight disadvantages. Thus, they have raised the fair selling price with the result that the margin of protection against the Continental goods has been much higher. It would thus be impossible for the Continental goods to come into this country after paying high protective duties. Sir, if we had not to depend upon other countries for the disposal of our agricultural products, it would have been a different matter. We cannot sever our connection with other countries because India is an agricultural country and she has to depend upon various countries for getting good prices for her agricultural products. By reason of these protective duties against continental imports we are estranging their sympathies and their feelings against us and it is but natural that they would try to retaliate against us and would try to purchase agricultural products, if it is possible, from other countries which are dealing with them on more favourable terms. Sir, our connections with other countries are not insignificant and we cannot depend upon one country, namely, the United Kingdom, for the disposal of our products. I find that the average percentage of our exports up to 1930-31 to various countries was as follows : United Kingdom 22.7 per cent., United States of America 11.5 per cent., Japan 9.7 per cent., Germany 9.3 per cent., France 5.1 per

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

cent. and so on. Thus, it will be seen that we are sending to United States and Japan as much of our products as we are sending to the United Kingdom, and, therefore, it will be disastrous for India if we estranged the sympathies of these foreign countries. Sir, we have already seen how the high tariff duties on textiles have affected Japan and how Japan had retaliated by boycotting Indian cotton ; so much so, that we had to enter into trade agreements with Japan in order to sell a fair quota of our raw cotton to that country. It is true that under the Ottawa Agreement we have entered into preferential agreements with the United Kingdom in the case of a number of goods. But there is the justification that India has got as a *quid pro quo* preferences with regard to some of her agricultural products. But how these Ottawa Agreements have worked are still a matter for consideration by this House. We have got the report of Dr. Meek on the working of these Agreements. We find from that report that there has not been any great development in our agricultural production as a result of these Agreements. I can here quote the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce which we received here only today saying that it is not beneficial in the interests of India. This is what they say :

“ In entering into this agreement India has risked a good deal of her foreign custom and it is apprehended that by the continuance of this Agreement a great deal of harm may be done to India's trade with foreign countries.”

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : May I ask if that is the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce ?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : It is the opinion of the Indian Merchants' Chamber.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : I am sorry for the mistake. It is the opinion of the Indian Merchants' Chamber. In addition to preferences given to British goods under the Ottawa Agreement, if we give preference with regard to steel goods to the United Kingdom, then it will certainly tell upon our foreign trade. I do not want to quote how the Belgian Chamber of Commerce have viewed it as my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has already quoted it *in extenso*. The Belgian Government are trying to get their requirements of raw goods from other countries which have been treating them with better consideration. From the Tariff Board report we find that the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers are desirous of entering into an agreement with the Indian Government so that they might divide the Indian market between the United Kingdom and India. This is what they say :

“ While the Federation recognise that the Indian industry should have the first claim on the Indian market to the extent of the whole of its output, they propose that the balance of the Indian market for both tested and untested steel should be supplied by the steel industry in the United Kingdom at prices corresponding to the fair selling prices fixed for the Indian industry.”

Sir, I feel a grave suspicion that the Government of India might enter into such relationship with the United Kingdom because the Tariff Board have stated on page 70 :

“ The stability of British steel prices in India during the past few years as compared with Continental prices strengthens the suggestion that there is greater certainty of stability of prices being maintained by agreement with the steel industry in the United Kingdom than with that of other countries.”

On the assurance of the Tariff Board, the Indian Government might enter into a preferential agreement with the United Kingdom. Sir, I give the Government a note of warning that if such a contingency occurs, if we exclude the foreign countries' trade with India, then it will spell great disaster to the interests of India. The Tariff Board has also suggested that we should enter into trade agreement with other countries. We have already frittered away our bargaining power on almost all the articles and no more bargaining power is left to us. The foreign countries are also not very anxious to enter into trade agreement with India, because, at any moment India might give notice of termination of such agreements if they do not work favourably, not to India, but to the United Kingdom, that is, if, as a result of such agreements, the United Kingdom goods are excluded from the Indian market. Hence I warn that Government should not enter into any more trade relations with the United Kingdom and give more preferences than we have already given. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I am conscious of many shortcomings and one of which I am most conscious, is my incapacity to repeat over and over again what I have once said, in spite of the fact that I have been a humble disciple sitting at the feet of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, for so many years. Debates on the third reading are, as a rule, merely a repetition and a rehash of what has gone before, and I venture to submit that the present debate is no exception to the general rule. I venture to suggest that nothing has emerged during this last stage of the Bill to call for any special comment from me, nothing indeed which is new in itself or which involves a new outlook upon matters which may not in themselves be new. My Honourable friend, Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya, at the commencement of a somewhat lengthy speech, made it quite clear that while his body was here, his mind was in his constituency.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : I am not standing for election.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : That, Sir, explains the speech which my Honourable friend made.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhamadan) : He says he is not standing at all.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : Having regard to this very honest, if somewhat pathetic, confession, I do not think it will be fair for me to be hard upon him, but I would draw the attention of the House to something very significant in what he said. After spending something like half an hour in eulogising my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, on his Minute of Dissent and then commending to the House the abstruse calculations of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, he suddenly said : " I am prepared to accept the fair selling prices found by the Tariff Board ".

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : But not more.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : When you accept that, you remove all possibility of any serious criticism. I say serious criticism and by serious criticism I mean criticism which is a challenge of the facts and figures upon which the whole scheme of protection has been built. I say that that scheme, speaking generally, is almost inevitable with the data

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

before us and it is proof against anything but the wildest generalisations and the most vacuous charges, generalisations such as my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has indulged in. These generalisations may be all very well when you are fighting an election campaign on political grounds. They ill befit those who profess to be considering a serious tariff problem connected with protection to a great industry in this country.

Mr. B. Das : The Indo-British Trade Agreement is vital to us. It is not an electioneering stunt.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : One of my Honourable friends opposite made a statement, the other day, which interested me very greatly. It came, if I remember rightly, from the front bench of the Opposition. The gentleman who was responsible for the expression of this view said that he would prefer to see the same duty imposed on all imports from outside and a special additional duty to counteract any attempt at dumping by Continental competitors. Personally, I do not see any great difference between this procedure and the line adopted by the Tariff Board, so far as the ultimate results are concerned. They both depend upon a recognition of the fact that there must be a special rate of duty against uneconomical competitors, and, secondly, that a dead level of duties is, in existing circumstances, impracticable. Now, Sir, I have nothing further to add to what I have already said in regard to the proviso to which my Honourable friends, Mr. Neogy and Mr. B. Das, took exception, but let me repeat my arguments. I said that this proviso has been in existence for seven years. It was accepted by an extremely critical Assembly and it is extremely unlikely that there will be any necessity to invoke its provisions in actual practice while its elimination at this stage would be interpreted as a totally unnecessary and uncalled for attack upon the United Kingdom. Then, Sir, a certain amount of perturbation has been expressed at the possible consequences of the effect of the duties embodied in this Bill upon our Continental trade. In connection with that let me make two points. The first and the outstanding point is this that with the exception of one or two individual items, we are at the present moment suggesting an all round reduction of duties. I have referred on a previous occasion to that reduction, but lest Honourable Members have not realised the full extent of those reductions, let me give to them a few typical instances. On Continental untested bars the reduction will approximately be from Rs. 46½ to Rs. 39, on Continental plates from Rs. 45 to 25, on Continental black sheets from Rs. 73½ to Rs. 32 and on Continental galvanized sheets from Rs. 83 to Rs. 40. This is a very important point to bear in mind. The other point on which I would like to lay emphasis is one on which I have already laid some stress in one of the speeches that I have made in connection with the Iron and Steel Bill. As it is a subject which does arouse a certain amount of apprehension in the minds of certain Honourable Members in this House, let me repeat what I have said. I said that I frankly admit the necessity for seeing that the Continental importer is not unduly or improperly penalised. I am not one with those who point out the danger inherent in an unfair handicap on Continental products, but I would draw attention to the pregnant observations of the Tariff Board on the question of Continental competition. When Continental

price becomes stable and economic there is nothing to prevent us utilising our powers under clause 2 to bring the duties into line with such modifications of prices.

Sir, we have now come to the end of our labours. There is, I venture to think, little difference of opinion here in regard to the necessity for protection; I venture to think there is no serious difference in regard to the amount of protection. There may be small divergences among some of us in regard to certain individual items, but I venture to think that it is the view of the House as a whole that the scheme of protection embodied in this measure is a fair compromise and holds the balance fairly, as I have said, between the industry and the consumer. I trust, Sir, that the House will join with me in the hope that on the expiry of the period for which we are now granting protection, the Tata Iron and Steel Company will have established itself firmly on the only foundation upon which it can establish itself firmly, namely, the foundation of efficiency. And I do venture to express the further hope that it will look to its duty and not so much to its dividends and that it will treat national claims and national interests in a spirit of fairness and not in a spirit of personal and selfish gain. Sir, I ask the House to pass this Bill without division. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to provide for the modification and continuance of the protection afforded to the iron and steel industry in British India, and to impose an excise duty for revenue purposes upon certain steel, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN TARIFF BILL.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties. In one sentence I may inform the House that it really puts together the different duties which have now got to be found in various amending Acts, as for extension, and so on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, **Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

RAILWAYS.

NEW CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will take up the supplementary demands in respect of Railways first.

Mr. P. R. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ New Construction ’.”

It is somewhat unusual for us to place supplementary demand for new railway construction in the autumn Session of this House. The reasons for it were explained, however, in the Honourable the Railway Member's Budget speech. At the time the Budget was prepared, none of the projects, which we had under consideration, had been fully examined. The Honourable the Railway Member said in his Budget speech :

“ If we find that these projects are likely to be remunerative under present conditions of cheap money and low prices of material and desire to start construction during the next working season, we shall take steps to place our proposals before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and ask the Assembly for the requisite additional grant.”

The demand that I am now placing before the House is for the construction of a line in Sind in the area opened up by the Lloyd Barrage. It has been found after examination that on a conservative estimate the line will bring us a return of six per cent. on the capital outlay. The Standing Finance Committee for Railways has approved of these proposals and as it is desired that this line should be constructed and opened before the crops are ready next season, the matter is of urgency, and, therefore, we have considered it necessary to ask the House to vote the requisite funds to enable us to start construction at once. I move that this supplementary sum be granted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ New Construction ’.”

There are two amendments, one of Mr. Maswood Ahmad and the other of Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, to reduce it by Rs. 100. The Chair would say that token cuts for discussion of policy cannot be permitted on Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : I wish, Sir, to say that I do not want to move my motion. I want to oppose the whole demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member can speak on it.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : First of all, Sir, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the papers were supplied to us very late

only yesterday we got the papers in connection with these supplementary grants, and, I think, we on this side of the House have a legitimate grievance in this connection that papers are supplied to us so late. If you will see the press marks and other records, you will find that these papers were ready long before ; but I cannot understand why Government decided to supply these papers to us so late.

Now, to come to the merits of the case : in the very beginning, I want to make it clear that I am opposed to this demand totally. In my opinion, this demand is not justified at present. The expenditure which Government intend incurring for this project is entirely unnecessary. You will see, Sir, that this is a project to connect Jhudo and Pithoro—I am sorry if I do not pronounce these words correctly, because I am not well acquainted with Sindhi words. They say in the memorandum :

“ The construction of the Jhudo-Pithoro Railway is, therefore, proposed. This line will pass through the Talukas of Samaro, Umarkot and Digri in the district of Thar Parkar in Sind.”

If you will see the map and time table, you will find that there is already a metre gauge line from Mirpur Khas to Jhudo : so that area has already got a line on the map. Further, you will find that this proposed metre gauge line is to open up the area between Umarkot and Digri also. I find on the map a station called Digri already existing. So there is absolutely no necessity for having this new line and for spending such a large amount. The area of Digri has already got a station and a railway line passes through it. Further, if we see what the distance is between Mirpur Khas and Pithoro, we find that the distance between these two places is only 22 miles. So the proposed line will make the system there a triangular one ; Jhudo will be the apex of the triangle ; Mirpur Khas will be one corner and Pithoro will be another corner, and the distance between these two corners or of the base will be only 22 miles. The distance between these lines will diminish gradually till it will become zero at Jhudo. So, spending such a large amount of money on this project, I do not understand how Government can be justified. Further, you will see that the arguments are totally inadequate. They say :

“ The gross-earnings of the new branch five years after opening are estimated at 2.76 lakhs ; and additional earnings to the Jodhpur-Hyderabad Railway (British section), after allowing for loss to existing lines by short circuiting and reductions in the rate structure on the Mirpur Khas-Jhudo Branch necessitated by this construction, are expected to amount to 46 lakhs....”

Mr. P. R. Rau : 46 lakhs.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Yes, 46 lakhs or Rs. 46,000.

“ The total additional working expenses to the Jodhpur-Hyderabad Railway, calculated according to the present contract with the Jodhpur Durbar, are likely to amount to 2.31 lakhs. The net earnings will thus be .91 lakhs.”

Sir, if you will calculate this Rs. 46,000 and Rs. 91,000 and Rs. 2,31,000, I cannot understand how any mathematician can work it out to Rs. 2,76,000. I ask my Honourable friend, the Financial Commissioner, to add these three sums and make it Rs. 2,76,000.....

Mr. P. R. Rau : Why should I add those sums ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : 46,000, 2,31,000 and 91,000—when added up, these come to 3,68,000.

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

Then, Sir, they expect some more income on the section between Mirpur Khas and Hyderabad, and that it will be a gain to the North Western Railway. The general rule is that the goods go by the shortest route. I do not know as to why the goods will go to Pithoro first, and then from Pithoro to Mirpur Khas, and then from Mirpur Khas to Karachi, because there is already a line between Judho and Mirpur Khas, and there is no necessity for sending goods from Judho to Pithoro. Further, there is a discrepancy in the figures on pages 2 and 3, and I warn the Government that they will not make this amount of profit which they have calculated. Six per cent. profit will never be earned. You always find that the estimates are found to be incorrect and in some cases the actual cost has been three, four or ten times more than the original estimate. I am not going to quote instances, but they are well known to the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways and the Honourable the Financial Commissioner. They cannot show even one or two cases in which they have spent less than the estimates and they have got the estimated profit. In 99 cases out 100, they have always spent more money than their estimates, and they are losing. So many lines have been opened in this country. They gave us certain figures that there would be so much profit, but the result was that where they estimated six per cent. return, they have not got even two per cent. The reason is, they open lines in those areas where they do not require to be opened up, and neglect those areas which require to be opened up. It all depends upon the whims of the engineers. Whenever we suggest any project, they always say it is unworkable, there is this trouble, that trouble, and so on. But whenever any projects are brought up by the engineers themselves, the Government always accept them without question. When, on previous occasions, the engineers had estimated a return of seven per cent. and the actual yield was only two per cent. and in some cases there was a loss, did the Government ask the engineers as to why this result had been produced ?

On page 3 of the report of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, ten items are mentioned, but they have not provided for electric and telegraphic charges on this line. May I ask, are you going to open this line without having any telegraphic poles or without any telegraphic connection on this line ? Certainly not. (Laughter.) Is it in your brain, or is it in confidential files, or what ? (Laughter.) We only go by the memorandum supplied to us, and in this memorandum there is no provision for telegraphic and electric charges. (Hear, hear.) Again, you have not provided a single pie for rolling stock. You may say that you will use the rolling stock which you have already got, but you do not provide for the depreciation of the rolling stock which you will use on this line. This is the way in which the whole estimate is prepared.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : The Honourable Member, Mr. Rau, has not explained it even in his speech.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Now, you will see that this line is running not even parallel, but rather it goes from Judho to Pithoro.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : What about Umarnkot ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I do not find any station, called Umar-kot, on this map, nor is it in the time table. If there is a private station of that name for my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdoola Haroon, I am not aware of that. (Laughter.)

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : I may tell my Honourable friend that Umar-kot is a great city where the great Akbar was born.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : There are many such places where many big people were born. Instead of having a line from Judho to Pithoro, if we had one connecting Judho with Badin or some such place, there may be some sense, but the opening of this line is absolutely absurd. They are in need of a line connecting Karachi and Hyderabad with Bombay southwards, but it has not been done. There are many important projects in Bihar, like the Taregna-Bihar Line which will connect two light railways and the Patna-Gaya Branch on the East Indian Railway, but they are not being taken on hand. There is no straight route from Patna to Ranchi, the headquarters of the Local Government, and they are not making it possible for the people to go by the shorter route. Even the timing is not connected so that the Patna-Gaya-Gomoh-Barka-Khana-Muri route may be convenient to the public. An express train between Patna and Gaya is urgently required. There are many such schemes pending, but instead of spending the money in a right way, they want to waste the tax-payer's money in this way by starting these unremunerative projects. So, I oppose this supplementary grant, and I recommend that it should be rejected by the House. (Applause.)

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Sir, I have heard the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad. I have supported him on many occasions, but I regret to say I am unable to support him now.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : When he is wholly in the dark, how can you support him ?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : I may tell my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, that this project has been demanded by the people of Sind for a long time. Besides, my Honourable friend is mistaken about the Judho-Pithoro Railway. He thinks that a railway connection is already there, and, therefore, he asks, why they are building this new railway ? My friend has seen the map, but then I ask him whether he has considered Umar-kot also. Then he will revise his opinion. I cannot give a proper explanation of this thing, but, taking for instance, that Judho is where the Honourable the Railway Member is sitting and Pithoro is where I am, then Umar-kot is there (pointing at some distance). I hope my friend will understand it properly now. Unfortunately there is no plan here, but I trust my friend has read the memorandum by the Railway Board. There it is said :

“ It had become apparent, as far back as 1925, that on completion of the Lloyd Barrage Project, the existing railway communications in Sind would be found inadequate to handle the increased volume of agricultural produce and that the provision of further railway communications in this part of the country would become a necessity.”

My friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, does not know what has happened in Sind. Of course he can suggest Ranchi to Patna and many other lines, but at present the Government of India have made a loan to the Provincial Government of 25 crores of rupees to build the Sukkar Barrage and that Barrage has already been completed, and, in this tract

[Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon.]

of land, the produce such as wheat and cotton and many other things cannot be marketed. The Sind Administration Committee, which was appointed by the Government of India, strongly urge that this railway should be built and also other roads. These places are far away from the marketing centres. They are bringing their produce on camel backs at a cost of four to six annas per maund, from the field to the market. The wheat price is nearly Rs. 2 and it will be impossible to market them if four to six annas a maund is also to be paid. This suggestion is a good one from the financial point of view, and besides that the Bombay Government have spent large sums of money on the barrage and they can get it back immediately. If this railway is not built, then the barrage cannot do any sort of good to this area.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are you aware what would be the distance between the two lines ? In some places it is less than two miles and in some places it is less than ten miles.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : My Honourable friend does not know that after the barrage was built, all these lands are under cultivation, and unless there is a communication between Judho and Pithoro, it will be impossible to bring the produce. There is not a single road. Unless my friend comes there and sees with his own eyes, he will not be convinced. If my friend will come to all these places, I can show him those places and then he will be convinced.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will you pay my expenses ?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : If my friend will agree to come, I will gladly pay all the expenses.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Then many Members will oppose this construction.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : I agree with my friend on the question of the Sind-Bombay connection.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Spend this money for this purpose.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Sir, there is a difference of opinion about the Sind-Bombay connection. The Indian side wants it badly and the European side do not consider that this will give any benefit. With these words, I support the motion, and I hope that my friend, after hearing what I have said, will withdraw his opposition.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I do not propose to vex my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, on this question, but I must tell him that he has spoken without his cards. If he will excuse my saying so, he has shown great ignorance of the part of the country in question. When he was in the enthusiasm for asking for railways in Bihar and other places, he was forgetting himself. I thought he had absolutely no justification for his remarks without having visited the spot or acquainting himself with the plans and estimates that have been prepared.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I have got a plan here.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I understand that is not complete. If you had seen the plan that has been actually prepared for this purpose, you would not have spoken a word. With the establishment of a barrage in Sind, it cannot possibly be pleaded that

the barrage will be successful without roads and communications. Before the barrage was constructed, we had certain railways, but they were not intended for the purpose of helping the easy conveyance of agricultural produce. With the coming into existence of this barrage, barren tracts have also come under cultivation. To say now that no roads and communications are necessary is an absurd proposition. With regard to this Jhudo-Pithoro Railway which they are going to build, is it my friend's contention that the Railway Board are groping in the dark and they build any railway that is asked for? That is not so. A regular scheme has been laid down, and by that not only will there be this railway, but there will be a lot of other feeder railways; these have to be built if the barrage scheme is to be fructified; and so far as this proposed railway is concerned, the proposal has not only been put before this House by merely assuming that this railway is necessary, and, therefore, sanction should be given, but plans and estimates were prepared, and it was, I think, the wish of the people of the locality who wanted it; they were not blind, they know the locality, they knew how far the existing railways were helping them, and it was not that the local authorities, who joined hands with the public in having this railway created were not competent to express a considered opinion on that point. Then, when the question came up, a Committee was appointed in Sind under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Sind to consider these projects and they considered them as well as many others and they came to the conclusion that this railway should be constructed. Now, I ask—is it the case that all these considerations should be washed out? Well, Sir, my friend should know that we on this side personally know these places and we are of opinion that this railway is a very necessary one.

Now, the first point he took was that there is already a line from Mirpur Khas. Samaro is actually on the other side, completely on the other side, and Jhudo is in the other direction and Mirpur Khas on the third side. Now, I may tell my Honourable friend that the main railway is the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway which starts from Hyderabad, passes Mirpur Khas and goes, I believe, from east to west in a direct line. Now, that line does not serve the purposes of the barrage system at all. There is another branch line from Mirpur Khas to Jhudo, I believe on the southern side which is working, but not to support the barrage, and it does not pass through the barrage area. The barrage area is on this opposite side. It is, therefore, very necessary that a railway should be constructed through the barrage area, so that there should be conveniences afforded to the people for taking their produce within easy distance to the railway stations. My friend said the distance between the two lines is 22 miles. May I tell him that at places it may be even little less; the answer of the railway is, as I know, that they can ordinarily build the line at a distance of fifteen miles, but, on account of this barrage, it becomes necessary even to construct the railway at a shorter distance, because the purpose now is a peculiar one. Now, I may inform the House that the people of Samaro Taluka do want this railway and they have been consulted with regard to this, though I would say they have one grievance, and I may draw the attention of the Honourable the Financial Commissioner to this question. It is that, the railway that is now going to be built does not pass from the town of Samaro, does not touch the town of Samaro, and also two other towns

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

beyond Samaro, whereas it is at present proposed to pass at about four or five miles away and the people of Samaro—because Samaro is a taluq station where there is a Magistrate, Government offices and there are commercial people—do want that there should be a station at Samaro itself, not four or five miles away, and they say that if the railway is going to be made at four or five miles away, then it will not be popular, because it is necessary that there should be ginning factories and other conveniences for the people of the barrage. If you are going to have a station in a barren place, these ginning factories will not be established there. Therefore, I am informing the House that this railway, if it does not touch Samaro, or the other village, will not be popular and profitable.

Mr. P. R. Rau : May I know what that other village is ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I forget what it is.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Is it Nabisar ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Yes. (Laughter.) I know I put this matter before the Chief Commissioner of Railways, and, therefore, my Honourable friend has been posted with all these facts and names. Sir, the people of Samaro and Nabisar are very anxious. They went on a deputation, but I am sorry that that deputation was not received by the Commissioner in Sind. I represented this matter to the Railway Board and the people of Samaro are even now ready to go on a deputation to the Railway Board, but I am giving some consolation in this way. I am told that this question is still under consideration and that the papers have been sent to the Bombay Government to consider this point, and I was also advised to send the memorial of these people to the Bombay Government and that point is being considered. Therefore, I hope the Railway Board will stick to their own policy. That policy is to make the railways touch the towns as much as possible, and if this town of Samaro is not touched, then there will be a great difficulty. With regard to this, I will also say that this line actually passes through the barrage area. The Railway Board has laid down the rule that an important town must be touched. So I submit that this point should be considered carefully by the railway authorities as well as by local authorities. I do not like to forget to say one thing, viz., that Mr. Stubbs was specially appointed to go into this question, and he was also of the opinion that this railway should be made, but I have a feeling that the Agent of the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, who has been given the contract, or rather the Jodhpur Durbar which has been given the contract to build this railway, is inclined to stick to the point of not making a station at Samaro. I have explained personally to him that public opinion is very strong on that point, and I hope the Railway Board will consider this point and thus have stations at these places. Beyond that, I have nothing to say, and, with this reservation, I give my wholehearted support to this demand.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, two Members from Sind have given their votes ; they are entirely in favour of the construction of the railway. My Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, has opposed it. It is well known that my friend devotes a good deal of his time to the study of railway questions,

and his opposition need not be thoughtlessly brushed aside. He has pleaded for a railway in Bihar also while my friend, who just sat down, is pleading for more railways in Sind. As a matter of fact, Sind does require railways. The road material there is not plentiful and the construction of ordinary roads is very costly and it is more costly to keep those roads in repair. Therefore a railway line there is a necessity. There is no doubt about that. But the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Maswood Ahmad was that there is already a railway line between Mirpurkhas and Jhudo and this new branch is intended to connect Jhudo with Pithoro, which is nearly 22 miles from Mirpurkhas. So, Sir, if the new line is constructed, it will complete a triangle which will be very very narrow. At its base it will be about 22 miles and the distance between the two lines will gradually diminish until it becomes zero at Jhudo. So, on the face of it, the scheme requires more examination. There are other tracts within the Barrage area where railways are more urgently needed.

I would place another point of view before the House. There is at present a line between Jhudo and Mirpurkhas. That line is in the map and is known as Jodhpur-Bikaner railway. I am under the impression that it was constructed by the Jodhpur Darbar, but I am not quite certain about this.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : It is a British section.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : May I ask the Financial Commissioner, Railways, to correct me ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The line between Mirpurkhas and Jhudo was originally constructed by a private company and was bought by Government two or three years ago.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : So, now it is a British line, but was not first constructed by the Government.

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, it was not constructed by Government.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I want to know, if this line is so very paying and is likely to bring in about six per cent. within five years, why has not any company come forward to construct it and the Government have to put their hands in their pockets to find the money to construct it ? This sum of 15 lakhs is a thin end of the wedge. When the line is constructed, it will be found that the cost was much more, and when the line is worked, it will earn much less. That has been the experience all over the country. I know that a line near Bombay was constructed which was about five or six miles long at a cost of over a crore of rupees and the line ultimately had to be dismantled. I know, Sir, that the Sukkur-Barrage is going to give water to more acres of land in Sind than that Province obtained before, but that does not mean that lines will be required at such short distances as 20 or 22 miles from one another. There are so many other places where railway lines are more urgently needed than in this area.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : What is the dividend earned by the present railway line ?

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I do not know what dividend Government are getting on the Mirpurkhas-Jhudo line, and it is certain that the construction of this new line will divert some of the traffic from the existing

[Mr. B. V. Jadhav.]

branch, and, therefore, its earnings are likely to fall down. My impression is that this line is not making more than three or four per cent.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Rather less.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Has my Honourable friend any reasons for holding that impression ?

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I am asking for facts from the Financial Commissioner for Railways.

Mr. P. R. Rau : When my Honourable friend says that it is not likely to earn more than three or four per cent., I assume that he has read the history of Indian Railways and has made himself familiar with the returns of the Railways.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I would be much obliged if the Financial Commissioner for Railways will give me the accurate figure.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham (Shetty) : Order, order. He will refer to it in the course of his speech.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : At present the Financial Commissioner for Railways is not in a position to supply the figures. Then all I can say is that if he thinks that my impression is not well-founded, I am ready to withdraw it. But at present I do not know what the earnings of the Mirpurkhas-Jhudo line are and it is certain that when the new line is constructed, those earnings are likely to fall down.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : I am a shareholder of that line, and last year we got $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I may inform my Honourable friend that since the completion of the Barrage, the income is going up every year.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : I am very glad to hear that. I do want Sind to prosper, and, along with that, my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon says that it is a private company and the Government Member says that it is a Government line.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Government themselves will have to explain that. Sir, I do not know whether I should oppose or support this measure, but as I am not sure about the earnings, therefore, I cannot support it. It is quite useless to oppose, because the Government are bent upon making this line.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, I do not want to make a speech, nor do I want to oppose this motion. I should like to have some information on one or two points which arise out of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. I understand that this railway line is going to be constructed in order to facilitate the movement of agricultural produce which is likely to increase as a result of the completion of the Sukkur-Barrage scheme. This is all right, and I do not want to say anything about it. But there are one or two other points on which I should like to have some information. It is proposed under the present system to construct the line on metre gauge system and later on to convert it into a standard gauge. I read the following in the

proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, dated the 13th August, 1934 :

" The line is proposed to be built in the first instance on the metre gauge as the present traffic conditions will not justify its construction on the broad gauge. As, however, the volume of traffic is likely to increase very considerably in the future due to anticipated development of the country resulting from the intensive irrigation of Sind, the line is proposed to be so designed and constructed as to be capable of easy and cheap conversion to broad gauge when that becomes necessary."

I should like to know whether my Honourable friend, the Financial Commissioner for Railways, has got any idea in his mind as to the cost which will be involved in converting this metre gauge line into a broad gauge line, as I find that there may be some difficulty, and the additional expenditure which will then be needed for the conversion of this line into a broad gauge line may stand at a very high figure. Therefore, I want to know whether it is not possible, if this project is at all necessary, to construct it on a broad gauge system. I want to know the cost of the whole scheme, so that, afterwards, it may not be necessary to scrape the whole line which is at present being built on metre gauge system, and to underake further expenditure which might exceed any reasonable figure. The other point on which I would like to have some information is that this line is going to be constructed by the Jodhpur Darbar and to be worked also by that Darbar. I should like to know whether the other lines in that part of the country are worked by the Jodhpur Darbar or not, and then see whether those lines were originally constructed by the Jodhpur Darbar and are worked also by that Darbar or whether they were Government lines and were made over for working to the Jodhpur Darbar. I find that after all we have got a lot of railways being worked by States in Kathiawar. I do not want to make any invidious comparison between the lines worked in British India and the lines worked in those Indian States, but I should like to know what is the special point underlying this proposed railway to be constructed by and to be worked by the Jodhpur Darbar or whether it is possible to evolve any scheme by which this railway as well as other sections of railways which are being worked in that part of the country could be taken over by the State. As I am not familiar with that part of the country I want to have information on this point.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I shall not delay the House for more than a few minutes, because I feel that really these supplementary grants are becoming an order of the day which is not desirable. The reason why I stand in my seat is to protest, and that very emphatically, against the way in which the Government of India in the Railway Department have been treating the representations of people of the various parts of the country with scant courtesy. From a perusal of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee on Railways, you will find that the quorum was only obtained by the presence of four Members, and we here in this House, consisting of over 100 Members, are asked to give our verdict over this expenditure initially started with fifteen lakhs and later on which might go up to crores. I have personally no grouse on the points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, but I should like very much to address the Railway Department on this very pertinent question of their railway building policy. As a matter of fact, if this was available in the beginning of February when the Railway

[Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim.]

Budget was presented for the consideration of the Assembly, I am certain that Members of this House would have been in a better frame of mind and apply more time than they are able to do now. Some of my Honourable friends have taken objection to the points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, but I think his objections are very pertinent, because if the Railway Board feels that a particular area has got to be covered by railway lines I am certain they ought to think of this proposition quietly and considerately and they must be able to allow some time to mature after their decision is shaped. What is the result of hasty railway legislation in this House. You have seen, Mr. President, in the course of last year that we had to pass some measures to help the railways to compete with people who run motor bus service along railway lines. That is not all. Sir, if you scan the other portions, you will find that the railways have come to this Assembly, more often than others, seeking our help and that help has been ungrudgingly given. But it seems to me that there ought to be some limit to this, because I feel that those parts of the country and those tracts of India which are closer to Delhi and Simla are better looked after than other hinterlands in distant places where equally the railways and the Government of India are receiving a large amount of revenue. For example, the part of the country I come from, namely South Eastern Bengal, which is passing through troublesome times. As a matter of fact, as a member of the Local Advisory Committee of the Assam Bengal Railway, I have represented to them whether it will not be a paying concern for them to extend the proposed line up to the borders of Burma, and the only reply that they gave was that the Railway Board was so adamant and that they were not paying any heed to their requests. May I not very pertinently ask the Government of India, when they are spending lakhs of rupees for the defence of Chittagong and the adjacent parts, whether they could not extend the Assam Bengal Railway to the borders of Burma and thus do away with the huge expenditure in the defence of those parts. I can assure you, Mr. President, from my personal experience of that part that once you build the railway line up to the borders of Burma to the Southern part of Chittagong, you will find that the disturbed conditions of those parts will be a thing of the past.

Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi (*Dacca cum Mymensingh : Muhammadan Rural*) : Will it put an end to terrorism ?

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : My Honourable friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, has asked me whether, if the railway line is extended to the borders of Burma, terrorism would disappear.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We are not discussing that subject now.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : Sir, my personal experience is this that if Government had the wisdom to follow that policy, I can assure my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, and the House that we would have lived in much quieter atmosphere. Certain Honourable friends have taken objection as to why Mr. Maswood Ahmad raised all those objections. I am certain that the objections of Mr. Maswood Ahmad are justified on this ground, because as you know, Mr. President,

the Government went to the length of spending several lakhs of rupees in sending special officers for reconnoitring the country where the railway lines could be properly built. I am certain that if they followed the recommendations of Kirkness-Mitchell Committee properly they would not find themselves in this position of bringing this matter for the consideration of this House. At least we know this that the Government of India in consultation with the Punjab Government have been more or less, to put it mildly, gambling with certain Government revenues. What is the story of their loan to the Bahawalpur Darbar ? One would feel very shy to come to a decision as to be able to help in this matter because here who will be the agency, who will be the agency that would work for the Railway Board. It is the Jodhpur Darbar. We are not informed as to the position of that particular State and if their position is different from that of Bahawalpur. All these points are left to be surmised by the Members of the Assembly who are called upon to pass this sum and, I am certain, they can legitimately make these enquiries. They are responsible to the tax-payers. The Railway Board should have proper methods of opening their Railway lines, and not come to the Assembly for help at all times of the year.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir I was at a loss to understand the fury with which my Honourable friend Mr. Maswood Ahmad attacked this motion of mine till I remembered that unfortunately he failed to catch your eye, Sir, this morning when he wanted to speak on the Steel Protection Bill which was moved by the Honourable the Commerce Member. He suddenly remembered that the Honourable the Commerce Member, who is also the Member in charge of the Railways, was responsible for this motion also, and so he took this opportunity of exercising all his vengeance on him by opposing this motion. (Laughter.) Sir, my Honourable friend has raised various objections to this motion. The first is that he is very doubtful whether any line of railway is really required at all in that part of the country. I am afraid that he has taken this motion of mine to imply an unholy pact between me and my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, from Sind, and intended to give a sop to him or a bribe to prevent him from asking supplementary questions and he thought that I am proposing this railway line in his part of the country for this purpose.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Bombay and Karachi railway lines should then be built very soon.

Mr. P. R. Rau : That was the only explanation I could give for his bringing in the question of railways in Bihar into the discussion because he is the only competitor to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai with regard to supplementary questions. (Laughter.) I need not, I think, labour the point that communications for the purpose of transporting the agricultural products that will come into existence by means of the Lloyd Barrage are essential and necessary. We carefully considered the question whether these communications could be more fitly provided by railways or by roads. As an Honourable Member has already pointed out, roads are a most expensive proposition in that part of the country on account of scarcity of road metal. It was, therefore, considered, and in this we had the unanimous recommendation of not only the railway authorities, but the authorities responsible for the civil government of Sind that a railway line in this area was absolutely essential.

[Mr. P. R. Rau.]

The next point which my Honourable friend raised was as regards the estimates of receipts and of the capital expenditure. In the first place he wanted me to add up all the figures given in a certain paragraph of the memorandum placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I do not know why he wanted me to add up all those figures. He must surely be aware that there are other arithmetical processes than that of addition. If he will not take my word for it, my Honourable friend sitting next to him will tell him that there is such a process as that of subtraction; and instead of adding all the figures if he adds the figure of gross earnings of the new line which is 2.76 lakhs to the additional earnings to existing lines of .46 lakhs, he will get a total of 3.22 lakhs. Deducting from that the working expenses of 2.31 lakhs, he will get the net earnings of .91 lakhs. Secondly, he pointed out that there were certain discrepancies in the figures of the capital expenditure which we propose to incur on this line and, in particular, he referred to the heading "Electric Telegraphs" against which no amount was shown. Now, Sir, as regards this point, the position is that the Electric Telegraphs will be supplied by the Government Telegraph Department who will charge us rent for it. So it does not have any place in the capital cost of the line. Similarly, with regard to the rolling stock. The rolling stock is provided by the Jodhpur Durbar and the additional expenditure on that account is included in the working expenses of the line and not in the capital cost of construction. Similarly, my Honourable friend talked of depreciation. That also is an item of working expenses and is not included in the capital cost of the line.

Sir, I do not think I need take more time in dealing with the criticisms levelled by my Honourable friend from Bihar on this point. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai raised, I think, certain objections to the alignment of this line. His chief point was that the railway did not pass through the town of Samaro. As regards that, he had, I believe, an interview with the Chief Commissioner of Railways and Major Gordon, the Manager of the Jodhpur Railways; and I understand from Major Gordon that the alignment proposed is so located as to give the greatest benefit to the agriculturists as a whole. The two villages Nabisar and Naokot lie on the fringe of the desert area, and it would be anything but economic to align the line so as to pass in close proximity to those villages. As regards Samaro, the point apparently is that if the line goes very near Samaro it will be within nine miles from the existing railway line. The alignment, I understand, has been approved by the civil authorities.....

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : It is yet with the Bombay Government. The civil authorities have not approved of it.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand it was discussed by Major Gordon with the Chief Engineer and the Commissioner of Sind, and, to the best of their knowledge, it was approved by the civil authorities. And Major Gordon has also informed the Railway Board—I am quoting from his letter :

"The question of the relative position of the proposed line with the Samaro village was discussed by me for hours with a deputation from Samaro headed by a Sindi pleader. The pleader finally admitted to me that the proposal to align the proposed line so as to pass within close proximity to Samaro was economically unsound and unjustifiable."

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Jadhav, thought that there are other tracts in the Barrage area where railways are more urgently needed, but he did not tell us where those tracts were. On that point I think the House will agree with me that we should be better advised to take the opinion of the two Members from Sind. He also asked the question that if the line is going to be profitable, why does not a private company construct it and why should Government take the trouble of constructing the line? Now, Sir, as the House is aware, the present policy of the Government of India is to discourage private enterprise in the matter of construction of railways; and, I believe, public opinion in the country is in favour even of the State taking over all those lines which are at present managed by private agency.

My Honourable friend from Bihar, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, asked me questions about the cost of conversion to broad gauge. I am sorry I have not the exact figures about the cost, but it cannot be very much, because it is only a question of widening the existing line and the bridges are to be so constructed as to allow of the widening of the line without much extra expenditure. In any case the question of conversion to broad gauge will not be considered unless it is financially justified. The other question he asked me was why it was worked by the Jodhpur Darbar. The answer to that is that the British section of this railway is only about 250 miles in length and it is most convenient for it to be managed by the Jodhpur Darbar which has a mileage of about 800 miles in close proximity to it. The only other agency by which this line can be worked is the North Western Railway. That is a broad gauge line for the greater part of its length and has not enough facilities for dealing with a short stretch of metre gauge line.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But does not the Eastern Bengal Railway consist of metre gauge as well as broad gauge and both of those systems are worked by the same agency?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The metre gauge system of the Eastern Bengal Railway is a bigger proposition. It is not a small line of 250 miles.

The only other point that I wish to take is with regard to the complaint made by Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim that this was not presented at the February Session. I have already explained why it was considered desirable to postpone consideration of any of these new lines till later in the year. In any case it has had this advantage that it has enabled the proposal for the construction of this line to be fully discussed in this House, whereas, if this had been taken up in February, it would not have had this full discussion.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : May I ask a question? Will the Financial Commissioner be pleased to tell me if the lines, which this proposed line is sought to connect, are broad gauge lines or metre gauge lines?

Mr. P. R. Rau : They are metre gauge lines.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1935 in respect of 'New Construction'."

The motion was adopted.



CIVIL.

SALARIES AND OTHER EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH AGRICULTURE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of the salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’.”

The supplementary demand is in respect of two schemes : the development of agricultural engineering and the agricultural propaganda in the Lloyd Barrage area in Sind. They have been explained in detail in the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee which was held on the 13th July, 1934. The rapid development of the Lloyd Barrage Area is a matter of considerable importance to the Government of India, since it is only through the success of that barrage scheme that Sind, after its separation from the Bombay Presidency, can become a financially self-supporting unit ; and until this occurs, its deficits will have, in one way or another, to be met either from Central or Federal revenues. The Government of India have, therefore, decided that all possible steps should be taken to accelerate the development of the barrage area as a revenue producing area during the period before the separate Province is created, in order that it may be able to repay, at the earliest possible moment, the advances from the Government of India from which the barrage and its canals have been constructed. I may just remind the House that the total amount borrowed from the Provincial Loans Fund is about Rs. 23 crores. The present budgetary position of the Government of Bombay does not permit them to provide the necessary money for accelerating the development of Sind ; and, I dare say, a good many of the Bombay Members would also take the view that they do not see why Bombay should spend money on developing Sind in view of the future events which have already cast their shadows before. In these circumstances, the Government of India have accepted in principle the proposal of the Government of Bombay that Central revenues should come to the assistance of Provincial revenues in financing schemes which are likely to hasten the development of Sind, but which are beyond the present resources of the Government of Bombay. The Government of Bombay, however, have undertaken to contribute to the cost of these schemes the amounts which they are actually spending at the present time. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of the salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’.”

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I do not want to make a speech : I merely want to ask a question.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member is requested to wait a minute : there appears to be a motion standing in the name of Mr. Maswood Ahmad.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chōta Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Yes, Sir. I beg to move :

“ That the supplementary demand for a sum of Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the ‘ salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’ be reduced by Rs. 50,000.”

I want to say in this connection that I am very sorry that I have to move this cut on a demand which is to develop Sind, as has been said by the Honourable the Finance Member. I also want to say in the beginning that I whole-heartedly support the separation of Sind, and I whole-heartedly support the idea of developing Sind. But, at the same time, I think it is my duty to inform the House as to how Government want to waste money in the name of development of any area or in the name of agricultural engineering in Sind. I am one of those who always vote for the agriculturists : I myself am an agriculturist, and I want that Government should show real sympathy with the agriculturists. But I do not want that the Government should, in the name of agriculturists, or in the name of the separation of Sind, be allowed to waste money like this, as they propose to do.

I thought that Mr. P. R. Rau would, when replying to my first amendment, give an answer to my question as to why papers were supplied so late. He did not reply to that question. I again put to my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, the same question. The Standing Finance Committee sat on the 13th July and they decided all these questions : all these papers were before the Government on the 13th July : then all these papers were sent to the press and the press gave them the copies on the 13th August in the shape of this book.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

May I ask him why these copies have been supplied to us after a lapse of 12 days ? We got these papers only yesterday. How is it then possible for us to read about 76 pages of this Standing Finance Committee's proceedings and then about more than 100 pages of the report of the Public Accounts Committee ? If you will see the job number, etc., on page 76, you will find that these papers were printed and were in the hands of Government officials on the 13th August, 1934. But for 12 days these papers were kept in the safe, so that we may not see them and we may not be able to study all the figures and the facts. Further, if I wanted to consult certain books in the Library, how was it possible for me to consult those books in the Library as yesterday was a Sunday ? We got these papers on Sunday, and we could not consult any books in the Library ; we could not do anything in this connection ; and today we are asked to discuss these questions on the floor of the House....

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row (Government of India : Nominated Official) : May I interrupt the Honourable Member ? The pages which he should read in connection with this supplementary demand are only six and not seventy-six.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I said that all these things were supplied to us only yesterday and the total volume of these books in connection with the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee comes to about 200 pages ; and we have to go through them and discuss the Public Accounts Committee as well. How is it possible for

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.] :

any one in this world to go and read so many pages in 24 hours. Further, we could not consult any papers or books to see if the figures submitted to us are correct or incorrect. We have got no other alternative, therefore, but to rely upon what they have said, and so I will quote what they have said in these books.

This item which they demand is for Rs. 1,52,000. There are three projects : one project is for agricultural engineering ; the other item is to open a factory at Mirpurkhas ; and the third item is to have propaganda work in Sind. These are the three items for which Government demand this sum of Rs. 1,52,000.

If you will see, about Rs. 48,020 is demanded as non-recurring expenditure. The annual expenditure is Rs. 1,07,807 per annum, this is for agricultural engineering work. For the factory they want Rs. 4,189 for non-recurring and Rs. 7,558 for recurring expenditure. I shall deal with these two items first, and then I shall pass on to the third item. As regards the first item, they have given us a list of works, and I want to read that for the information of the House. For machinery and plant they want Rs. 20,655, for machinery tools Rs. 5,135, for workshop stores and building Rs. 13,385, office furniture and scientific instruments Rs. 2,449, tractor and implements Rs. 6,396. All these relate to non-recurring expenditure. Then the recurring expenditure items are given ; manufacturing workshop Rs. 58,832, working expenses of tractor Rs. 4,803, office contingencies Rs. 6,000, travelling allowance Rs. 5,700, pay of establishment Rs. 9,672, and pay of officers Rs. 22,800. What does this last item of Rs. 22,800 consist of ? It is for a European Agricultural Engineer. Though they have not mentioned it in the book, it is for a European Agricultural Engineer, and, I am sure, my Honourable friend cannot contradict me there. What is strange, Sir, is that Indian Agricultural Engineers were not available to the Government and they want a European Agricultural Engineer. They propose to spend Rs. 18,600, while the manufacturing workshop will entail a recurring expense of only Rs. 58,832. This is a clear example of top-heavy administration. The pay of the Agricultural Engineer is Rs. 1,250—20 annual—Rs. 1,500 per mensem, with an overseas allowance of Rs. 300 per mensem. Then you will find that though the initial pay of the Divisional Accountant is Rs. 100, he will get Rs. 200, and will not get the starting salary. The draftsman's pay will be the initial pay of Rs. 200. The storekeeper and establishment clerk will get Rs. 80 though his initial pay is Rs. 75, that is, he will be put in the middle grade. The typist will get Rs. 55 though his starting pay is Rs. 30. Similarly, inward, outward and record clerk will get Rs. 35 though the initial pay is Rs. 30. Again, the workshop accounts and general clerk and the Assistant Agricultural Engineer's clerk will be placed in the middle grade. These men will not begin with the initial salary, but they are being put in the middle grade. In this way, in my opinion, they are wasting Rs. 18,600 on the Agricultural Engineer. Why should they spend such a large amount on him when they are spending such a small amount on the workshop ? Is it not possible for the Agricultural Engineer in Bombay to supervise the work of the Assistant Agricultural Engineer in Sind ? Even if you want to waste your money, why not waste it on Indians (Hear, hear), and what is the use of having a European Agricultural Engineer ? Indians are poor and deserve some help from the Government, and so

an Indian can be appointed as Agricultural Engineer. So, Rs. 18,600 can be saved very easily. May I know from the Honourable Member if there is not an Agricultural Engineer for the Bombay Presidency, and is it not possible for him to supervise the work in Sind ? If so, that amount is saved and also the expenditure on clerks, etc., for the Agricultural Engineer will be saved. In this way Rs. 26,000 can be saved.

Let me now come to the Mirpurkhas factory. It is said that if the purity of the seed is to be maintained, this factory is essential. Is this factory working in that area, or do they want to open a new factory ?

An Honourable Member : It is already there.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I am coming to that. If they want to open a new factory, there is no provision for that. If they want to have the same factory which is working at present, then why do they require Rs. 4,189 for repairs and replacements and to bring it into a working condition ? They want to develop the barrage area by having this staff, and what is the use of spending this amount on a factory as well ? There is absolutely no necessity for working this factory by the Government and spending such an amount on this. This makes a sum of Rs. 30,000 a year. Let me come to the third item, which is, propaganda work. The total cost of this comes to Rs. 1,60,804. It is to be found at page 17 of the Standing Finance Committee's report. Instead of saying that the total cost will be Rs. 1,60,800, they themselves say the total cost is expected to be between Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 1,70,000. There they can easily save Rs. 10,000 according to their own figures. If you want to know what posts they propose to have, you will find details on page 17. They require two Deputy Agricultural Officers for propaganda work in a small province like Sind ! What will be the duty of these men ? Only propaganda work in the barrage area. (Laughter.) It is mentioned here, "Memorandum regarding the development and re-organisation of agricultural propaganda in Sind". The pay of the officers is Rs. 300 with an annual increment of Rs. 25, rising to Rs. 1,000 per month. The number of officers will not be one, but they require two, because there is a river which you cannot cross, and on the eastern side you must have one officer and on the western side another officer. (Laughter.) I am not saying these things from my imagination. It is said here that they require two officers, one on the eastern side and one on the western side. Perhaps there is no conveyance across the river in order that one officer may supervise the whole work in Sind. What is the area and the population of this place that you require such heavily paid officers ? Why should they be satisfied with one Divisional Superintendent ? I think they have forgotten. They require two, one for east and one for west. So, Sir, they are wasting money in this way. There are so many important things to be done and when there is a question of improvement of agriculture, they employ two or three European officers and this is their idea of improving agriculture. When we require some money for medical relief, they say "well, we will give you relief" and they appoint half a dozen I. M. S. European officers and this is the medical relief for India. What they mean is the employment of European officers only. I appeal to Members of the House who are the custodians of public money that they should not allow this wastage. The House is unanimous on this point. We want that agriculture in Sind should be developed, but in its true sense. I want to tell my friends, Mr. Haroon and Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, that this is not a gift to them. They have to pay this amount

[Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad.]

again—the money that will be wasted in these areas, and the burden of the taxes will be on their shoulders and on the shoulders of their constituency. (Hear, hear.) I am not telling this out of my own imagination. Government have also told you that this will be your fate. On page 12, you will find that special accounting arrangements will be made for maintaining a separate record of the receipts and expenditure, so that the exact sums involved will be known when the financial settlement with Sind is made. When you have to pay this money back to the Government, you must be cautious in accepting this wastage of money like this. You must be cautious when you are going to allow Rs. 18,000 for a European Officer and another sum for other officers. I have done my duty. I have placed my facts before you, and it is for you to decide this question on its merits. I am not against Sind, I am against the wastage of money which has been proposed by the Government. It is certain that we cannot win in this House, but certainly we are entitled to do our duty and to place the correct facts before the House and warn it of the consequences. Sir, I move that Rs. 50,000 should be reduced from this demand and I have explained my reasons.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Cut motion moved :

“ That the supplementary demand for a sum of Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the ‘ salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’ be reduced by Rs. 50,000.”

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly :

4 P.M.

Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I rise to support this amendment. I believe, at an earlier portion of the day, Mr. Mody referred to my defence of the consumers and he said “ what do people who drive in Rolls-Royce cars know anything about the consumer ? ” I believe that is what he said. That is the information that was conveyed to me since I entered this House this afternoon. Unfortunately I was not here at the time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Order, order. The motion we are discussing just now is that a sum of Rs. 50,000 be reduced from the supplementary demand.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I am coming to that. I am developing it in a way in which you will find that I am speaking perfectly relevantly, although the objection to my defending the cause of the agriculturist is raised upon an absolutely irrelevant basis. I stand today to support this amendment because I am an agriculturist. I live on agriculture. From time immemorial, we have lived on agriculture, and were it not for the chance that I have been able to enter a profession, I would have been an agriculturist today.

An Honourable Member : And not in this House ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : I do not know. A good many persons, who are not professional men, are still in the House. Only I wish that I should not have been made the butt of an attack from my friend, Mr. Mody. I do not want to repeat the arguments that have been brought forward by my friend, Mr. Maswood Ahmad, so forcibly. There is one point on which he did not lay stress, unless I did not hear him properly. That is this. What is this propaganda you are going to make ? May I know what it is ? Nobody knows anything about it. My

Honourable friend who made this motion did not tell us anything about the details of this supplementary demand. Consequently we are in the dark. On page 6, it is stated that the completion of the Sukkur Barrage is going to produce lots of agricultural produce and it is absolutely necessary that provision should be made for it. That is to say, they either produce these agricultural products or they don't. If they produce these products, then why do you want to make any propaganda? Are you going to tell them that they should plough in a certain manner? Are you going to tell them to use steel ploughs instead of the old fashioned wooden ploughs with a small piece of iron fixed to them? Are you going to tell that they must use chemical manures and fertilisers instead of farmyard manure? Are you going to tell them how they should prepare their seed-bed and how they should transplant? Are you going to tell them about the monsoon and the state of the weather at the time when they come to harvest? The fact of the matter is that there are lots of gentlemen prepared here who are drawing a salary of Rs. 600 and upwards with a host of officers and subordinates under them. I do not know what they are going to do. When these officials come to the villages, it is a job to give supplies to them. Of course the Government say that the officials who take supplies have got to pay, but, Sir, I will be taking too much of the time of the House if I were to explain these little troubles that are endured by the villagers in respect of the visits, or shall I say, visitations of these officers who come for their propaganda.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Special provision is made for the entertainment of officers in Sind by the exactions of *rasai* and *lappo*.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : "Exaction"—yes. I understand the word "exaction" to mean compelling a man to pay something against his will; that is, as I say, what happens and what will happen, unless my friend was thinking of something else—and he was a Government official, he knows it, I do not know anything about it. I was in the unfortunate position of a man who was under the heels of these people and my friend was in the position of one who took advantage of such things, and, therefore, he knows better.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : *Rasai* and *lappo* constitute bribery.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Yes. I will come back to that question. There are so many things that have got to be done in connection with agriculture. Are you going to instruct them that they should deal in agriculture rather than in other professions? What is it that you are going to tell them? And why do you want an officer on Rs. 600 and another officer on Rs. 300? Sir, whatever these Agricultural Department people say that they are going to improve our agriculture, the last word on Indian agriculture has been said thousands of years ago. I say this without absolutely any fear of contradiction and my authority is the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. If anybody had the patience to follow the examination of witnesses during the peregrinations of that Commission, especially important witnesses, and the cross-examination of Sir Ganga Ram, you will find ample material to justify the position I am taking that nearly everything that the Agricultural Department say that they have done for the purpose of improving agriculture was known to us, but why then did we not follow them?

[Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.]

Because, Sir, we have not got the money : and here we have Rs. 45,000 spent chiefly for the pay of officers who are going to tell me, " you should do this, and do that, in agriculture ", and thus carrying coals to Newcastle ! That clearly is not the proper thing to do, and, I think, in the Government placing this motion before us, this House has not been treated properly, because we are not given the full details, nor does this supplementary demand contain any information. Sir, I endorse the objections raised. It is impossible for any of us to master these and to address useful criticisms, but what we have been able to understand so far as that this item is certainly very objectionable, and while, I am not sure that Rs. 50,000 alone need be deducted and not more, I submit that at least Rs. 50,000 should be deducted and whatever you may say, I respectfully appeal to this House that that item of propaganda should be completely wiped out. That is my objection.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. Deputy President, to the best of my recollection there was an occasion when the predecessor of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, mentioned in this House the separation of Sind, and I think he more or less took it for granted that it was an accomplished fact. The result of this was that within a very short time questions were asked in the House of Commons as to why mere Member of the Government of India should dare to take for granted something which was being discussed by the Joint Select Committee and has to be decided by Parliament. That was an actual occurrence. Today we find that in a note, put up by the Finance Department and discussed by the Standing Finance Committee, the separation of Sind is taken to be an accomplished fact, and to such an extent, Mr. Deputy President, that we are having a debate in this Honourable House which, under ordinary circumstances, would have taken place in the Bombay Legislative Council ; and we are doing so in anticipation of the Legislative Council of Sind coming into existence. Sir, I hope, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will be a little luckier than his predecessor and will not be pulled up in the House of Commons for having dared to allude to something which we know is *going* to be an accomplished fact. Now, Sir, if this had been, as it ought to have been, discussed in the Bombay Legislative Council, there would have been at least twelve to fifteen representatives of Sind to express an authoritative opinion upon the merits of the question, but today we find one Honourable Member from Bihar and another Honourable Member from Madras criticizing a scheme intended for Sind, which ought to be discussed, accepted or rejected by Sindhis. I am not a Sindhi, but I am more connected with Sind, Sir, than either of my Honourable friends who have addressed this House ; and, when my Honourable friend behind me talks about the little Province of Sind, perhaps he has not realized the amount of land that has come under the plough due to the Sukkur Barrage, which had been virgin soil for as long as man can remember. Therefore, Sir, I do not think this House is in a position to criticize this scheme. It is merely the force of circumstances that has driven the Government of India to bring this matter before us. It ought never to have been here ; it ought to have been discussed in Bombay or by the future Legislative Council of Sind, and, therefore, to go on criticizing a scheme which we do not understand or are not capable of understanding in this House seems to be a mere waste of time. Sir, I can remember schemes put forward

years ago, when I had something to do with these schemes for the development of Sind, and I can remember criticisms levelled at those schemes by Honourable Members who knew something about them, by Honourable Members who lived on the soil, by Honourable Members who were vitally interested in those schemes—either interested in having them accepted or having them rejected. Now, Sir, I am not here to express any opinion on the merits of this scheme as it stands, and what I would suggest to this House today is to leave it entirely to the responsibility of the Government of India, who have fathered this responsibility and this scheme and let them do what they like. If there is anything fundamentally wrong about it, my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, will have, as some one has reminded us, to pay the piper,—not this Honourable House ; it is they who are going to pay the piper. Sir, it is only the force of circumstances which compels us to read even these six pages ; we have no business to do it ; it ought never to have come up before us, and therefore let the responsibility be taken by the Government of Bombay and the Government of India who are vitally interested ; we are not paying for it. Sind will pay for this money. Let them decide. And this, after all, is a loan by the Government of India, is not this so ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : To be taken into account in the final financial settlement.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, this grant of Rs. 1,52,000 is required for developing the Sukkur Barrage. Now it cannot be denied that the barrage is a settled fact now, so far as it has been completed. It also cannot be denied that a loan of Rs. 23 crores has been taken by the Government of Bombay and they now want, as the memorandum shows, some more money as a loan for the development of this barrage. Now, Sir, the unfortunate thing that I see is this that certain reasons have been given in this memorandum which ought not to have been given and, if my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, excuses me, I submit that it is only because he is new to this subject and the whole question of the separation of Sind, which is a vexed question, has not been thoroughly mastered by him. Sir, I do join hands with the Honourable Sir Cowasji Jehangir that the question of the separation of Sind cannot possibly be raised at this stage in this House. The question of the separation of Sind.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : We are not discussing the question of the separation of Sind. The question before the House is that the amount of Rs. 1,52,000 be voted by this House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask the Chair that on the demand itself another opportunity will be given to us to speak, and we should restrict to the amendment to reduce the demand by 50,000 ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur cum Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : May I rise on a point of order ? Was not Mr. Maswood Ahmad allowed to say that he is quite in favour of separation of Sind. This question is also mentioned in the proposal placed before the Standing Finance Committee in this connection.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Mr. Maswood Ahmad referred to it in a general way. But the question of the separation of Sind is not an issue before the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkrai : I would only ask for a ruling from the Chair whether, on the demand itself, we are not in a position to speak on the question of the separation of Sind, because in the memorandum it is said that this money is being given by Government as a loan because Sind may be separated and it is in the interests of the welfare of that separated Sind that this loan is going to be given. I, therefore, submit that, although the question may not be touched in all its bearings and gone into at length, it can certainly be touched upon. I want to have the ruling from the Chair whether I am right or not ?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The question about the separation of Sind is absolutely out of order on this discussion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkrai : Then, I would submit that the reasons which have been given for this loan should be absolutely deleted. Sir, if the question of the separation of Sind is not going to be allowed at this time to be discussed because of the giving of this loan, then I must say that this demand should be considered by the House only as a question of loan being given to the Bombay Government. It should not be considered that it is necessary to give this loan on the ground of the anticipated separation of Sind. After the ruling of the Chair, the question before the House is whether this amount of Rs. 1,52,000 should be given as a loan to the Bombay Government for improving the barrage. The question whether Sind is to be separated or not does not arise at this moment. I submit that I myself was of that opinion, namely, that the consideration of the question of the separation of Sind does not lie with this House. It has been said several times that the question of the separation of Sind has not yet been decided and it is the Parliament alone that can decide it. If the question of the Sind separation is going to be decided by Parliament, then the Finance Department has no right to say that in anticipation of the Sind separation this loan should be given. I, therefore, protest against the Finance Department having brought in the question of the separation of Sind. They might as well have said that the Government of India have loaned a sum of 23 crores of rupees to the Bombay Government and the question before the House is whether any more money should be given to that Government or not. If Sind had been separated, then the Government of India could have given the loan to Sind. But as long as Sind is in Bombay, the Government of India can give a loan only to the Bombay Government. No question arises at this moment.....

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I rise to a point of order and a point of principle. Here is a demand made for a specific object. It is clearly stated and we know it is a fact that that object is within the purview of the Provincial Government. On account of certain circumstances explained in this note, the demand is made before this House. Are we, as a House, responsible for the merits of this scheme ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why not ?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : If something goes wrong with the scheme—say, it turns out to be a failure,—will the Government Benches hold this House responsible for it ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Certainly.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I want to raise this as a point of principle and also as a point of order, because, after all, in ordinary circumstances

this question would have been discussed by the Bombay Legislative Council. It is only in anticipation of the separation of Sind that it has come before this House. If Sind had been separated, it would have come before the Legislative Council of Sind. I contend, Sir, as a point of order, that we, as a House, are not responsible for the merits of this scheme. We are not seized of this scheme and we are not in a position to discuss it on its merits because there are only two representatives of Sind in this House. Under ordinary circumstances, if this question had been discussed where it ought to have been discussed, namely, the Bombay Legislative Council, there would have been at least 60 representatives of Sind to express their opinion on it. Under these circumstances, I contend that we, as a House, are not responsible for the merits of this scheme. We are merely responsible for allowing the Finance Department to finance this scheme in the place of the Bombay Government.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Can I also speak, Sir, on this point of order. My point is that this question has been brought before us and it has not been placed before the Bombay Council and there is no Legislative Council in Sind at present. Had there been a Council in Sind, the case would have been quite different. At present it is we who are discussing this question, and, therefore, we are responsible for it.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

If we pass this motion, we are responsible for it. This is my submission in this connection.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Mr. President, in your absence I raised a point of order. As it is an important point of order, may I, with your permission, repeat it ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes, please.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : The point of order is this. The Finance Department has asked for a grant of Rs. 1,52,000 to finance an agricultural scheme in Sind and the reasons were given not only in the Finance Member's speech but are also given in the note. The reason is that since Sind is going to be separated from the Presidency of Bombay, the Government of Bombay do not desire to take the responsibility of financing this scheme and have invited the Government of India to finance it in view of the future prospects of the separation of Sind. The Government of India have come before this House with a demand for this purpose. Under ordinary circumstances, this scheme and this demand would have been placed before the Bombay Legislative Council as dozens of such demands have been so placed in the past. It would have been discussed in the Legislative Council of Bombay and would have been either accepted or rejected there. But on account of the circumstances I have just explained, the demand is made before this House. I contend, Sir, that this House not having a sufficient number of Members of Sind here, as in Bombay, is not responsible for the merits of this scheme. Under the Government of India Act this demand ought to have been made before the Legislative Council of Bombay, where Sind is properly represented. It is merely due to an understanding between the two Governments that this demand is made here, and, therefore, I contend that we are not responsible for the success or failure of this scheme. I, therefore, want a ruling and

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

an assurance both from the Government of India and from you, Sir, that we are not responsible for it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : How does it form a subject matter of ruling by the Chair ?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Under the Government of India Act all matters pertaining to the Presidency of Bombay have to be decided by the Legislative Council of Bombay and cannot come before this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member must point out some section of the Government of India Act or of the Devolution Rules by which this House is not competent to discuss a motion of this nature.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I do not say it is not competent. The Government of India having the power of direction and control can take upon itself any responsibility and finance anything that concerns the Presidency of Bombay, but I contend that in ordinary circumstances this demand would have been made before the Bombay Legislative Council where Sind is adequately represented. Due to an arrangement come to between the Government of Bombay and the Government of India in anticipation of the separation of Sind, they make the demand before us. I contend that, in these circumstances, this House is not responsible for the scheme on its merits. I submit that we are not capable of discussing the scheme on its merits and I want an assurance from the Government or a ruling from the Chair that we shall not be responsible for this scheme.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : In reply to that point of order I will say that this scheme has not been placed before the Bombay Legislative Council. This scheme has not been discussed anywhere. This scheme which could have been prepared by the Bombay Government or by any Government is before us and placed by the Government of India before us and we could have sanctioned this sum for the particular scheme. So, I submit, we are entitled to discuss this scheme on its merits as well and we are responsible for that. This is my point that this scheme not having been discussed anywhere, we can discuss it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, I want to place a fact before this House. When I was speaking on this motion a point of order was raised by me and that has connection with the present point of order. I want to place that before you before you may give your ruling on this point. I said that the motive for giving this loan to the Bombay Government is the anticipation of separation of Sind and I began speaking that the question of separation of Sind is not a settled fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Does the Chair understand the Honourable Member to raise the point of order on which a ruling has already been given ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The ruling has been given and I accepted the same. But this point of order arises from that and so I am placing that fact before you. By the previous ruling I was not allowed to speak on the question of separation of Sind. Then this point of order has been raised that the separation question is before the Parliament

and so the Bombay Government should consider this scheme of development.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, perhaps it might have been better in order to present this proposal in an accurate light if the question of the separation of Sind had been referred to merely as a possibility. What is quite clear is this. A large sum of money has been spent on the Lloyd Barrage in Sind. That scheme will not become remunerative until agriculture in Sind has been developed a great deal more than it has been at present, and, therefore, the scheme will not pay interest on the capital it has cost. This is a project for making the scheme more remunerative by the development of agriculture in that area. The Bombay Government think that they may very well in a short time have no interest in Sind at all, and, therefore, they are not going to spend any more money than they are spending at present. Therefore the choice before the Government of India was to let agriculture not be developed or themselves to pay or to ask the House to approve the payment through the machinery of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research money for the development of agriculture in that area. For all this discussion about the separation of Sind, I admit, we may have some responsibility owing to a certain vagueness of expression. It is the mere possibility of separation of Sind that has led the Bombay Government to refuse to spend any more money on it and the question of the actual separation of Sind is not in issue at all.

Bhai Parma Nand (Ambala Division : Non-Muhammiadan) : Sir, Government want this grant on the clear assumption that Sind is going to be separated.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have just explained that it is not on that clear assumption. It is on the assumption that there is a possibility of Sind being separated. I have already explained away those words.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Then why don't you delete those words from the memorandum ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Certainly not. They have been explained.

Bhai Parma Nand : I want to say, Sir, that the question of separation of Sind is not a settled point at all. The Secretary of State has no doubt said that it was a settled fact, but, after that, the Joint Parliamentary Committee appointed a special sub-committee for the purpose of examining Sind witnesses whether Sind should be separated or not. When the main question of the Communal Award was brought before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the Lord Chairman decided that this question was still open and it would be settled by an Act of Parliament. Therefore, I submit that at this time it is not for this Government to assume that Sind is going to be separated but it is on this account that they want this grant from this House. If the Government want this grant in the anticipation of separation of Sind, we should not sanction this grant at all. We have no authority to settle that question, and we are not in any way authorised to sanction this grant as the reason on which the Government have demanded this grant is absolutely wrong and if they want for any other reason, then the Government should delete this portion in the memorandum, namely, that it is wanted in anticipation of the separation of Sind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : No question connected with the separation of Sind would be in order. It is one thing to say whether Government would be competent to bring before this House a proposal for expenditure, and it is quite another thing to say whether it is proper for them to bring such a proposal. It may be improper under certain circumstances for the Government of India to bring proposals for expenditure of a certain nature, but it may be quite competent for them to do so under the power vested in this Legislature by the Government of India Act. What the Chair has to consider is, not whether Government were well advised in undertaking this responsibility and not pass it on to the Bombay Government. What the Chair has to consider is, whether, under the provisions of the Government of India Act, this demand for a supplementary grant can be sanctioned by this House. So far as the Chair can see, nobody has pointed out to it any provision of the Government of India Act which precludes the incurring of such expenditure by the Government of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I submit, Mr. President, that there is a section of the Act which says that any expenditure on a matter which is within the purview of a Provincial Government should be borne by the Provincial Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Where is it ?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I cannot lay my hand on it now. There is a section between 72-A and 73 which precludes the Government of India from sanctioning expenditure which falls within the purview of Provincial Governments. But I am not able to place my hands on the section immediately.

Mr. G. H. Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) : There is no such section.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Does the Honourable Member contend that any expenditure, which it is legally incumbent upon a Provincial Government to incur, can be incurred by the Central Government and a demand for it can be brought forward before this House ?

Mr. G. H. Spence : I expressed no opinion on that point. I merely stated for the Honourable Member's information that the section which he was trying to find does not exist.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair will give an analogy. The earthquake in Bihar was the concern of the Bihar Government, but this Assembly sanctioned expenditure for the relief of the Bihar earthquake. The Chair is not able to lay its finger on any section of the Government of India Act which precludes the Government of India from incurring an expenditure of this nature or which precludes this Legislature from sanctioning this proposal. I am certain that there is no section of the Government of India Act which precludes it, and this demand is in order. But the passing of this demand will not in any way commit this House either to the separation of Sind or otherwise. That question is entirely separate. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai may continue his speech.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, to continue the debate, now I find that the question is simpler. The issue before the House now, after

this discussion and your ruling, is whether the Government of India should give a loan of Rs. 1,52,000 to the Bombay Government.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : Is this a question of loan ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : It is put down here as expenditure.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : There is already a loan of 23 crores of rupees which the Bombay Government have got from the Government of India. So far as the barrage is concerned it has been completed and it is really necessary that the barrage should not be left alone at this stage without any further improvement or development being made. I am, therefore, of opinion that money should be given as a loan to the Bombay Government for this purpose, but how much the amount should be is the question.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, may I remind the Honourable Member that you can bring a horse to the water but you cannot make him drink ? The Bombay Government will not take a loan.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Then to whom is this loan being given ? Is this loan being given to me ? The memorandum does not say that it is a grant. On the other hand it states.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : May I again point out that the question of loan or gift is left purposely vague :

"It is proposed to finance the balance.....out of Central funds. Special accounting arrangements will be made for maintaining a separate record of the receipts and expenditure, so that the exact sums involved will be known when the financial settlement with Sind is made."

I take it that that leaves it open to the Government of India to treat it finally as a gift or as a loan in accordance with the actual conditions at the time of the final settlement, if and when it is made.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, then the point is this that, because the accounts are being kept separately, therefore it should be considered that those 23 crores of rupees that have been given as a loan are also a free grant. I shall be very happy to see that the Government of India makes that free grant to Sind. If that is a loan then there is no other question but to give other loans. Then it would amount to this, that this House is going a step further than even the question whether Sind is going to be separated or not. They are giving a subvention, because it has been said here, in the memorandum, that until Sind is separated, its deficits shall have, in one way or another, to be made good by subvention from Central or Federal revenues. Then, this Government is running too fast. The question of separation is not decided, and it is yet before Parliament, but the question of subvention is going to be decided here. Subvention is a vicious subject. I do not know why we are going to make a free grant of this money to Sind ? Therefore, I submit that the only way in which it can be given is by way of a loan. It cannot be a free grant. Under what head will it come as a free grant ?

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar (Nominated Non-official) : You are very ungrateful. You are given a grant and you do not want it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I do not want these paltry sums. If it is a gift let all the 23 crores go as a gift and we shall be quite happy. So far as my position at present is concerned, I should like the House to consider this point that this is a loan and cannot be a free grant. Even in the demand it is not shown as a free grant. There is no ambiguity at all. The Barrage has been built on loans given by this Government, and the Bombay Government are unwilling to do it because they have no money with them. That is what the memorandum says. The Bombay Government have nowhere said, nor does this memorandum say, that they are not going to incur this expenditure because Sind is going to be separated. On the contrary, so far as I know, the Bombay Government, from beginning to end, have been in favour of non-separation of Sind and they have got this loan from Government and built the Barrage. It is they that want to reap the fruits. Therefore, I submit that this cannot be considered in any other light but as a loan. From that point of view my position with regard to this demand is this. I do recognise that the Sind Barrage does require money for furthering the ends and objects of that Barrage, and money is needed ; but how much is the question. Now, if the Bombay Government have not got funds, then only a loan can be taken. The Central Government can give this money only after considering the estimates. It is like this : the Bombay Government having got no money say that this big project might suffer for want of some development : and for that purpose they want to have workshops, propaganda, etc.....

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Did the Bombay Government want this money ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : We do not know, but the point is that it has been conceded in this memorandum that that Government is not able to incur this expenditure.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Then, who wants it ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : We do not know who wants it : but certainly the Barrage wants it. If it is said that the Bombay Government has not asked for this loan, then no question arises of giving it. Then who makes this demand ? Is this a demand by the Finance Member here for money to be spent on the Barrage ? Who will spend the money ? Will it be spent through the Bombay Government or not ? (*Cries of "No."*) Then, how ? "No" cannot be accepted : it is through the Bombay Government that the money.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member comes from Sind and surely he is not unaware that Sind has a separate Agricultural Department.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sind has a separate agricultural department under the Bombay Government. My Honourable friend should know that in Sind we simply have a Commissioner and we have not got a separate government there : we do not have a separate agricultural department and everything is being done through the Bombay Government : we are not yet separated ; and even the appointment of a single peon will be subjected to the budgetary provision of the Bombay Government. Therefore, I agree with my Honourable friend in his amendment for reduction of the demand. If this is not a loan to be given to the Bombay Government and it is simply going to be

given without any rhyme or reason, then I say that the House should reject this demand totally. But if it is going to be a loan, then I agree with the amendment to reduce it by Rs. 50,000 : and my reasons are these. My Honourable friend has shown in detail that the proposed expenditure can be economised, and I agree there. I see there are to be two European officers on very high pay. Is there a dearth of Indian engineers for this purpose ? There are many in the Bombay Presidency—and there are some even now engaged on agricultural works in Sind who can occupy these posts. Therefore, I agree that the demand should be reduced by Rs. 50,000. But, I must say, I request the House to reject this demand wholly if the Government is not in a definite position to say anything and if it says this demand should be granted in that vague manner.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate ; but, unfortunately, question after question has been raised and I consider it my duty to my Province to say something. Misunderstanding has been created in one way or another. In my opinion the question is very simple. The Government of India have come forward with this proposal to spend Rs. 1,52,000 on propaganda work, engineering works and so on. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji, pointed out that this question must be put before the Bombay Council where Sind members might discuss the matter. He is quite right. Nobody can deny that. But what is the present position ? It is this : the Government of India have lent the Bombay Government 20 crores, which, with interest up-to-date, comes to 26 crores. On account of political disturbances as to whether Sind should be separated or not, the Bombay Government have washed their hands of the thing. Nobody is saying clearly whether Sind should be separated.....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why should they wash their hands of Sind ?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Because of political disturbances : there are arguments from one side and another and nobody knows what will happen : the Parliamentary Committee have to decide : and when they will decide nobody knows : the Secretary of State has announced, that Sind would be separated, at the Third Round Table Conference. Today the Government of India is in the position of a moneylender, or Marwari. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, knows very well, in Sind, when the moneylender advances some money to the cultivator and one or two crops fail, he always tries to help the cultivator by giving something more, so that he might re-establish himself and bring in his crops and repay the debt.....

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : It is the co-operative banks who do it now.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : The Government of India is in the same position. They have advanced 20 crores and with interest it comes to 26 crores. The memorandum says that the Government of Bombay do not want to spend a pie. Not only that, but I want to draw attention of the House to para. 79 of the Sind Administration Report from which the House can understand how the Bombay Government is treating Sind. They say :

“ We are surprised, however, to find that in 1932-33, the very first year of the working of the Barrage canals, although there was, contrary to anticipation,

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a net surplus of Rs. 19,86,000 over working expenses, the surplus is allowed to merge in the general revenues of the Government of Bombay instead of being utilised towards part payment of the unpaid interest, on capital. Here, again, we see a charge made against the Capital (Loan) Account of the Barrage by utilising in relief of general revenues a sum to which those revenues have no claim, whilst a liability of the Capital Accounts awaits to be honoured."

Then, in 1933-34 the income from the barrage was included by the Bombay Government in the general revenues, that is, an amount of Rs. 27.27 lakhs which was the revised estimate. Again, the budget estimate of Rs. 21.87 lakhs for 1934-35 they have included in their general revenues.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I ask the Honourable Member who paid
5 P.M. the interest on the Rs. 26 crores ? The Government
of Bombay paid.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : The Government of Bombay had paid only Rs. 10 lakhs.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Rs. 10 lakhs are a free grant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : The report says :

"The revenue accounts of the Government of Bombay for 1932-33 closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 26.21 lakhs and the revenue surpluses estimated for 1933-34 and 1934-35 amount respectively to Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 3.9 lakhs only. It is obvious, therefore, that the Barrage revenue are playing a great part in avoiding the revenue deficits of the Government of Bombay and in balancing its budget. We cannot, however, see how the audit authorities and the Public Accounts Committee will accept this book-keeping, involving as it does the utilisation, for avoidance of fresh non-productive debt, of earnings derived from earlier productive debt, without first meeting the legitimate accruing liability of the latter debt."

From this report you can see the attitude of the Bombay Government towards Sind. Today the Government of India also see that if they do not spend this money and improve the Barrage area, it will be difficult for them to get back their debts. I agree with my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, that this question ought to have been discussed by the Bombay Council, but, unfortunately, the Bombay Government are not taking any interest in Sind. Therefore, I support this demand, but will at the same time make a suggestion to the Government that after this demand is passed they should send it to the Commissioner of Sind and ask him to take the opinion of either the Members of Council or those in whom they have confidence and put before them the scheme. If they agree, let this money be spent.....

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Can the Government of India deal directly with the Commissioner of Sind

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Through the Bombay Government.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : May I ask the Honourable Member.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order order. In view of the great confusion caused, I think it is the duty of the Chair to explain to the House the issue involved in this vote. In considering this demand for a supplementary grant, the House should take into consideration the existence of the Bombay Government, and

not of Sind as a separate province. The Government of India have advanced over Rs. 23 crores to the Bombay Government for the construction of the Lloyd Barrage. In so far as the Government of India have made this advance, it is the case of the Government that it is in their interest to see that the agricultural development of the Barrage area is hastened (Hear, hear), so that the huge advance which has been made by them may thereby be protected. The Government of Bombay, under whose jurisdiction the Barrage is situated, feel that on account of the stringency of the provincial finances they are not in a position to undertake any schemes of agricultural development in the Barrage area, and, therefore, the Government of India want to come to the rescue of the Bombay Government, and they themselves offer to take the responsibility of spending this Rs. 1,52,000 on the agricultural development of the Barrage area so that that development might be hastened. The Government desire to provide a sort of insurance premium to prevent any serious loss that might accrue. That is the case of the Government of India. But the Government of India at the same time hope that they would keep this Rs. 1,52,000 in a separate account, so that, if and when Sind is separated into a separate Province and the relative financial liabilities of the Government of India, the Bombay Government and the new Sind Government come to be determined, the question will ultimately be decided as to whether the responsibility for this Rs. 1,52,000 will be borne by the Government of India, or by the Government of Bombay, or by the new Government of Sind. So far as the House is at present concerned, this item of Rs. 1,52,000 is an item of expenditure and not an item of loan. If it is the intention of the Government that this House should treat this as an item of loan they should have provided it, not under the item of agricultural expenditure, but under the item of loans and advances to Provincial Governments. What the House has to make up its mind about is this, whether in the interests of protecting the advance which the Government of India have made to the Provincial Government it will be justifiable and wise on the part of this House to undertake the responsibility for the expenditure of this Rs. 1,52,000 so that the advance of Rs. 23 crores may be protected. (Applause.)

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : The Chair has very clearly explained the position. I want to tell my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, that he should not think that this amount of Rs. 1,52,000 will be debited to Sind account, because we know that the works are still going on, and I think this year also we have to borrow about Rs. 75 lakhs through the Bombay Government for Barrage capital expenditure. If the Government of India think they are giving this amount as a loan, then they must ask the Bombay Government that they should spend from the loan account and it is not necessary to spend from the revenue account. But, of course, we are keeping an account. If we are prosperous, if we are rich, then we can with folded hands give that money back to the Government of India, but otherwise, you must consider this as a gift just as Bihar got Rs. 129 lakhs. With these remarks I support this demand, and, at the same time, suggest to the Government that through the Bombay Government or by some other means they should get the opinions of Members of the Council and the public on the scheme, whether it should be spent as it is or whether it should be curtailed here and

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there as my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalechand Navalrai, suggested. With these remarks, I support the demand.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : As certain aspersions have been made about the conduct of the Bombay Government I shall have to take up some time of this House. In the beginning I have to say I am neither for nor against the separation of Sind. In the Committee of the Round Table Conference that was appointed and where this question was discussed, I did not take any partisan attitude there, but I confined myself to justifying the conduct of the Bombay Government which was challenged by some of the Sind members. I am very sorry to say that certain aspersions are made against the conduct of the Bombay Government towards Sind. Allow me to state before this House that since the conquest of Sind in the early.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : What is the Honourable Member driving at ?

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : That the Bombay Government has not been treating Sind very badly. If the accounts of the last 10 years or 20 years are examined, it will be found that Sind has always been a deficit Province and the Bombay Presidency proper has been spending lakhs of rupees over the administration of Sind from the revenues collected elsewhere. So, as a matter of fact, this question of separation of Sind has, I may say, come as a great relief to the revenues of Bombay and the people of the Bombay Presidency proper are rather glad about its separation. During this time of financial stringency the Bombay Government cannot afford to spend any big amounts for the agricultural development of Sind, as Sind is going to be separated and Bombay itself is very short of funds themselves. It has been pointed out by the Honourable the Finance Member that Sind has got a separate Agricultural Department. Yes, it has ; because it was thought necessary that agriculture of Sind should properly develop, and, therefore, the Government of Bombay, even in their hard times of financial stringency, provided large amounts of money for the development of agriculture in Sind and when this was done the question of the separation of Sind had never occurred, and, therefore, the Bombay Government thought it their duty to provide funds for the normal development of agriculture in that Province. But when Sind demanded separation and the Round Table Conference recommended separation, the position was entirely changed. The Bombay Government now cannot afford to spend huge amounts of money for the agricultural development of Sind, and, therefore, as you have pointed out just now, it is now to the interest of the Government of India to provide additional funds. Now, I may point out that although about 23 crores of rupees have been lent to the Government of Bombay for the construction of the barrage, when Sind will become a separate Province, whether it is a possibility or a probability or anything of that sort, then this debt of 23 crores on account of the barrage will automatically be taken away from the shoulders of the Bombay Government and it will have to be borne by the Government of India. Whether that debt is ultimately borne by the Province of Sind is a problem to be decided after long long years, because as I have pointed out Sind is a

deficit Province and it will be many many years before Sind Administration becomes self-supporting. Until that time, I do not think there will be any question of repaying the loan.

Now, as regards the present demand of one lakh and 52 thousand, I have to point out that there are two items, one is the item of the Agricultural Engineering department, and the other item is agricultural development and propaganda and the second item is a demand of one lakh and 60,000. So it amounts to three lakhs. And this House has to remember that this amount of three lakhs is to be an annual grant and it is not a non-recurring item. This amount will have to be found every year and as the time scale operates the amount will increase year by year and not decrease. So this House will have to find this amount every year. Another item is the grant for starting the Agricultural Engineering Department. The provision has been made on a scale which is almost equal to that of a major Province. Sind is a small Province, and, as I have pointed out, it is not a self-supporting Province, and, therefore, the Agricultural Engineering Department there ought not to be started on such a lavish scale. There is to be not only the Agricultural Engineer but there is to be an Assistant Agricultural Engineer. The whole Province of Bombay including Sind has got an Agricultural Engineer and one Assistant Agricultural Engineer and that suffices for the whole of Bombay including Sind. Now, it is proposed that the Province of Sind should not only have an Agricultural Engineer but also an Assistant Engineer. I think that is a very lavish scale and ought to be curtailed. Then an overseas pay of Rs. 300 per mensem is provided there. It clearly means that the Government of India now intend to import an officer from England. There was a good deal of discussion the other day when a post was advertised in England and not in India and I think Government have given an assurance that such a thing will not take place hereafter. I may point out that we have got very bad experience of agricultural engineers imported from England. One was imported in the Province of Bombay and I was given to understand that there was some underhand influence exercised at the time of his appointment. I am not going to describe that incident. But I have to state that during the tenure of office of this highly paid and efficient officer, the annual reports of the Agricultural Department stated every year that he was engaged in improving the seed drill. That was going on for years and that seed drill has not yet been adopted by the Government of Bombay or by any other part of the country. The Department of Agriculture has done much in the Bombay Presidency and I am very proud of it. The Director, the Deputy Directors, the Superintendents and others have worked very zealously and effected many improvements; but I am very sorry to say that much credit cannot be laid at the doors of the Agricultural Engineering Department. I am afraid that this history may be repeated in Sind. Now, provision has been made for manufacturing agricultural implements. The iron plough has made its entrance into Sind and more and more people are taking to that plough. Improvement is going on because these ploughs are made by local manufacturers. Now, with the appointment of the Agricultural Engineer, Government are proposing

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to start a factory for making agricultural implements. The Standing Finance Committee have recommended : The Committee approved the proposal on the understanding that the agricultural workshop, which it was proposed to establish, would be used purely for the purposes of experiment and demonstration and that there was no intention of developing them on a commercial scale. That was the recommendation of the Committee and I do not see any reduction in the grant asked as a result of the acceptance of this recommendation. It is said that this sum of 58,832, being the working expenditure of the workshop, will be covered by sale proceeds of the implements manufactured. Government thus expect that over Rs. 50,000 worth of implements will be manufactured in their workshop and they will be sold to the agriculturists. I am asking the Government whether they intend to be monopolists in this line. If they manufacture implements on such a big scale, then perhaps they will have to prohibit other manufacturers from entering the field. I may point out that a monopoly is a very bad thing, especially a Government monopoly. The Government of Bombay proper have never entered into a monopoly scheme. There are big manufacturers of agricultural implements and they are supplying all the needs of the peoples in the Bombay Presidency and outside. If Government will simply confine themselves to experiment and demonstration, it will suffice. It will encourage private enterprise and the implements made by private enterprise can, by competition, be sold much cheaper and they will be greatly improved. But if a monopoly is established, that will be saying good-bye to all improvement and to cheapening the products. I shall say a few words about the Mirpurkhas ginning factory. This factory was formerly owned by an English Company ; the latter did not make much profit out of it and Government came to their rescue and purchased it. It has been a white elephant on their hands ever since.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Now they are having lands.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : The factory itself is located about three miles from Mirpurkhas. The site is good, there is nothing to say against it, but then it cannot be worked economically because it is a small one, it is not a big ginning factory, and the best thing I think would be to dispose it of to the highest bidder. Government now propose to work it as a ginning factory and the reason they have given is that they want to secure the purity of the cotton seed. Sind is a cotton area and at Mirpurkhas there is a seed farm, a very big one, and I think that is very efficiently run. So they want to preserve the purity of the seed. But this excuse is not a very sound convincing one. Pure seed farms are to be found all over the Bombay Presidency. My experience is confined only to that Presidency, so I shall not say anything about the seed farms in other parts of the country. All these seed farms in Bombay have not got ginneries attached to them. These seed farms send their cotton to the nearest ginnery, get the cotton ginned and preserve their seed and propagate that species of cotton. So, for the preservation of the purity of seed, the running of a special Government-owned ginning factory is not at all necessary. As I have pointed out, it is a white elephant. The

expenditure is very heavy. It would be much cheaper to get the work done through private ginners. The purity of seed can be maintained and is maintained, all over the Bombay Presidency, and therefore, it can be maintained at Mirpurkhas also. I may point out that there are seed farms elsewhere, even in Sind, and there the purity of seed is maintained even though the cotton is ginned in gins of private owners. The maintenance of this factory at Mirpurkhas is not at all necessary and the expenditure on this ginnery ought to be deducted. The Government of Bombay is not in a position to finance all these schemes. The Government of India is coming to the rescue of Sind or rather, I shall say, to the rescue of the agriculture of Sind. Some of the items are necessary no doubt, but the expenditure on this lavish scale is not necessary. These are very hard times both for the Government of Bombay and for the Government of India, and I think only as much should be done as is actually necessary and everything extra or superfluous ought to be severely cut out. The Agricultural Engineer need not be such a very high-paid officer. The assistant engineer at Poona in Bombay will do quite well for such a small Province like Sind. Government ought to be very careful to see that sufficient work is done by the Agricultural Engineer to justify the appointment. It is not enough for him to show in his report that so many tractors were working in so many taluqas or districts and so much agricultural land was tilled by tractors and that this make of tractor is better than that make of tractor, and all such things. There are private companies which are spending a good deal of money in advertising their own tractors and in showing to the public which tractor gives better work and which does not. I know for certain that even the oil companies of Burma have been spending thousands of rupees for making the tractor popular and in this way encourage the advancement of agriculture there. Government themselves need not make an intensive propaganda for popularising tractors. Government need not also establish an implement workshop of their own and turn out ploughs and other agricultural implements for sale in the Province. That ought to be left to private capitalists and private manufacturers. Then there is no necessity for the Mirpurkhas ginnery. Government need not spend a huge amount of money over its working. Then as regards the demand for propaganda, which is not before this House, and I think that demand might be moved later.....

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : It includes Rs. 1,52,000.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : In the case of propaganda, I have to urge that the grant need not be on such a very lavish scale ; as my Honourable friend has pointed out, the establishment is too heavy and ought to be curtailed. We have to cut our coat according to the cloth and we ought not to go in for very lavish expenditure. Sir, Sind agriculture was previously managed by one Deputy Director. Now the latter has become the Director himself and in order to justify this change of title and status two Deputy Directors are provided under him. I think it would be much better if only one is retained ; and if half the Province is managed by the Director himself ; and if the other, the eastern or western portion is handed over to the Deputy Director. This arrangement has in fact been followed in other Departments ; for in-

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stance, in the Income-tax Department, where there is an I. T. O. and also an Assistant I. T. O., the whole district is divided between them and they work independently, and so, in this way, there is no necessity for the Director to have two Deputy Directors. Now in such a small Province like Sind one Deputy Director will do and in this way a substantial part of the establishment can be reduced and in this way expenditure ought to be cut out.

The present demand is a grant to be made by this House for the development of agriculture in Sind and it ought to be as economically administered as possible. This grant is not a non-recurring grant ; it is a recurring grant and until the separation of Sind is complete, this will have to be paid, and, I think, it will have to go on almost for ever. The Government of India will have to make up the deficit which the Sind Province has to face as soon as it is separated. At present Sind is a burden upon the revenues of Bombay which will be transferred to the broad shoulders of the Government of India and all the additional expenditure, on account of overhead charges, will have to be provided by the same Government. The Legislative Council, the Secretariat, and so on will cost a great deal and this sum of Rs. 1,70,000, whatever it is, will have to be added to the above mentioned expenditure as this is a new item altogether. It was not taken into consideration by the report of the Committee that was just referred to by my Honourable friend from Sind, and, therefore, this House has to think twice before it sanctions this amount. It requires a good deal of reduction before it is sanctioned. I do not think the whole of this amount is necessary. It is an expenditure on a very lavish scale and the Honourable the Finance Member and his Secretary ought to devote much attention to it and see how much of it can be cut out.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, this proposal was placed before the Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on the 13th July, 1934. Many of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee thought that the sum was a loan and not a free gift. Our impression might have been erroneous, but there was ample justification for it in so far as my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in his speech which he has made just now, explained that the proposal was left "purposely vague". Now, Sir, colour is lent to this on account of an entry which has been made in the papers as they were placed before the Standing Finance Committee, and is now before this House. We find it is mentioned here :

"Special accounting arrangements will be made for maintaining a separate record of the receipts and expenditure so that the exact sums involved will be known when the final settlement with Sind is made."

Now, Sir, we took this proposal as a loan which was being advanced to the Bombay Government. I now understand that the Bombay Government are unwilling to take the loan. As my Honourable friend, the Finance Member himself, has said, you can take the horse to the water but you cannot make him drink, namely, since the Bombay Government are unwilling to take the loan you cannot force them to take it. I now understand that in the circumstances the Government of India want to treat it as a free gift. Now, Sir, the question of the separation of Sind is not to be taken into account in this debate because we do not know what is in store so far as that point is concerned, and we have no right to assume

anything. But taking this sum of money as a loan which is to be advanced for accelerating the completion of the Barrage Scheme, I should like to know who is the party who is going to take the loan. The Bombay Government are unwilling to take the loan and the Sind Government has not yet come into existence.

An Honourable Member : This is not a loan.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If it is not a loan, then it is a free gift. It is a free gift to whom ? I should like to know whether the Bombay Government have asked for a free grant, in order to finance this scheme ? So far as I could see, the Bombay Government have not asked for any free grant. My Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, has said that the Government have given a free grant of money for the Bihar earthquake. I hope he does not mean to convey that the separation of Sind is a calamity of such a magnitude as the earthquake in Bihar. However, the development of agriculture is a matter which is a Provincial subject. It is not a Central subject. There are schemes for the development of agriculture which are awaiting solution in many of the Provinces under the Ministry of local self-government. Why should this part of the country be treated with special attention so far as the development of agricultural resources are concerned ? It might be said in answer to this that since the Government.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Because the Government of India have already wasted 20 crores on it.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I was just going to anticipate the answer of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. It might be stated in reply that the Government of India have sunk a sum of over 20 crores of rupees. But may I know at whose instance this huge sum of money has been sunk in the Sukkur-Barrage Scheme ? Was this money given out as a loan to the Bombay Government in order to utilise it towards the development of the Sukkur-Barrage Scheme, or the whole of the Sukkur-Barrage Scheme is a scheme which has been financed entirely by the Government of India and will be maintained as an Imperial concern ? Now, on the separation of Sind, if it becomes an accomplished fact, probably the Sukkur-Barrage will go to the Sind Government. I do not understand the position of Government with regard to the loan which they have advanced. They have advanced loans to many States, such as, Bahawalpore and other States. I should like to know what is it that they have got in contemplation in order to secure the re-payment of the loan, both the principal as well as the interest ? If this amount of over 20 crores of rupees has been given to the Bombay Government, the Bombay Government, I presume, would be responsible for it, and it is for that Government to see that so long as Sind remains part of that Presidency, it should be treated exactly in the same manner as any other portion of that territory.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : It is the Bombay Government which gets the benefit and we only pay.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, I should also like to know if we undertake the financing of this scheme and if the scheme ultimately becomes self-supporting and commercially a very paying proposition, who is going to reap the advantage of the scheme ? Will it be the Government of Bombay or the Government of Sind, which is still in the

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

womb of futurity, or the Government of India which finances the scheme? These are points which should be threshed out very clearly and placed before the House before this House can be asked to record its vote in favour of this proposal. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, in dealing with the point of order, which was raised a few minutes back, stated that this proposal might have been put up before the Bombay Government. I do not know how this could have been done, because the proposal refers to a proposal which the Government of India want to place before this House in order to give a free grant of a certain sum of money to a party which is unwilling to take it as a loan. I mean the Government of Bombay, and without the assent of this House this money could not be availed of by the Government of Bombay. Now Sir, there have been schemes placed before this House for the development of agriculture. The proposals in the present scheme, as I myself see it, relate to the employment of some Agricultural Engineer, and so on. I confess I have not looked very closely into this proposal, and being of an unsuspecting nature I took the proposal at its face value. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jadhav, who has got local knowledge of the scheme and of that part of the country and who was a Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture, has spoken with authority on this matter. With regard to the ginning institute, I understand from his speech that at first it belonged to a European concern and as they could not carry on with it, it is now going to be shoved on to the shoulders of the Government of India who are going to take it up as a separate scheme by itself. I do not know what my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has got to say on this point, but I should like the Government of India to define their position exactly with regard to this proposal. They must say clearly whether it is a loan which is being advanced to the Bombay Government or whether it is a mere free gift. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, must modify the attitude which he indicated in his speech just now and stated that this question has been left purposely vague. Sir, this proposal should not be left purposely vague. If it is a loan which is going to be advanced to the Government of Bombay, we must have all the papers before us and we must have the assurance of the Bombay Government that they want this money as a loan for the development of the Sukkur-Barrage Scheme. If it is going to be a free gift, I do not understand how, in anticipation of an event which is still in the womb of futurity, you are going to give a free gift of one lakh and 60 thousand rupees for the development of an area which is still within the jurisdiction of the Government of Bombay. Sir, there are many parts of the country which stand in need of agricultural development, for instance, Assam and parts of Bihar and Orissa or other areas for the matter of that. Are the Government of India prepared to finance schemes of such nature with regard to those areas? There are in the air several proposals for bringing into existence territories as separate administrative units. For instance, Sind itself is one. Why should we in anticipation of that event commit ourselves to a proposal for giving a free grant to Sind? This may be the beginning of a series of other proposals and the House is not in a position to commit itself to it at present. There are other schemes for the separation of other territories, for instance, there is a demand for the separation of Orissa, and there is also a demand for the separation of the Andhra Province and so on. Is this House going

to commit itself, here and now, to the position that it will be spending large sums of the tax-payers' money, collected from every part of India, on these schemes? Of course I am not going to say anything about the merits of the schemes, and certainly it is far from my intention to raise any communal issue over Sind as some of my Honourable friends may have in view. It is a point of principle that I raise now, whether at this stage the Government of India will be well advised in launching on a scheme for financially supporting those territories or areas which have not yet come into existence as separate administrative units? Therefore, I would suggest—of course if this proposal is put before the House, constituted as it is at present, the Government may be quite sure that it will be carried by a majority—but I would ask the Government to seriously consider the constitutional implications of this proposal, namely, whether at this stage they should launch on a scheme of financially assisting such projects. With regard to that loan the only answer which the Honourable the Finance Member has given is that the Government of India have advanced a loan of over 20 crores of rupees. I should like to know who has guaranteed the loan which they have given? Did the Government of India approach this House for sanction for the advance of this 20 crores? These are points which should be considered carefully, and if the money had been advanced as loan to the Government of Bombay, I think the Government of Bombay, being in a financially sound position to repay the loan with interest in course of time, should be asked to do so, and they should not be allowed to wriggle out of that position.

Mr. B. Das : The Government of Bombay have thus repudiated the Sukkur Barrage loan.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I do not know about that. Whatever that may be, I should like to know the position of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme *vis-a-vis* the Government of Bombay and the Government of India, whether the scheme is going to be a provincial concern or taken over by the Government of India? So, Sir, so long as these questions remain unsolved, I think it is premature for the Government of India to bring this proposal before the House. I would suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member—of course with the standing battalions behind the back of the Government, they are not likely to accept my suggestion that they should withdraw this proposal or at least keep it pending for some time, and then come forward with a well-defined and well-thought out plan to meet all the objections and the defects to which pointed expression has been given during the debate this afternoon. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I wanted to keep my fast for at least 24 hours, but I draw the attention only to one point, and I will detain the House only for a few minutes. I submit that the Standing Finance Committee unanimously recommended to this Assembly that this expenditure may be sanctioned. I voted for this motion and took the full responsibility when I did so. Before I voted, I satisfied myself from examining the experts who appeared before the Committee that this money was needed. The question whether Sind should be separated or not and what are the responsibilities of the Government of India or of the Bombay Government, are questions which are irrelevant to this motion. The only point on which we examined the witness was this, whether this expenditure would lead to increase of revenue from the Sukkar Barrage, in whose

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

success we are vitally interested. We were assured by the expert that we could raise the income substantially, and, therefore, we had no alternative in the Standing Finance Committee but to sanction this expenditure. I am rather surprised that my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who could have very well raised all his points with great advantage to his colleagues in the Standing Finance Committee, did not do so and has chosen to raise all those points in the Assembly. If we prefer to discuss this question in the Assembly and not in the Standing Finance Committee, then I see no justification for the existence of the Standing Finance Committee at all. We have experts before us in the Committee and we can examine them. We, at least, the Members of the Standing Finance Committee, should be satisfied before we recommend a proposal or write a Minute of Dissent opposing the demand. This item was put down in the list of demands. There could not be the slightest doubt in the mind of any person who knows the constitution that this is a demand and not a loan. It was never brought forward as a loan in the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then, why did the Honourable the Finance Member say that it has been left purposely vague ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This fact was known to me and I read the particular note before I voted for the same. I understood it perfectly well before I voted. The idea was this, that if a scheme would pay sufficiently well, then we may try to realise this amount as well. If it did not pay, then probably we will lose and it may be taken as expenditure. As my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, would say we advance the money in order to realise our old loan.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has anticipated at least one of the things I was going to say. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, would have the House believe that during the discussion in the Standing Finance Committee he was in a state of complete darkness as to what the proposals really were. My recollection of what happened at the Standing Finance Committee was that about nine-tenths of the examination of the Agricultural Expert of the Government of India, who was very fully cross-examined, was conducted by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. Both the riders attached to the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee were due to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. He really cannot come to this House and get away with it by saying, "it is perfectly true that I did not carry out my duties as a Member of the Standing Finance Committee, but I plead that I was bamboozled and misled and kept in ignorance". Sir, may I endeavour to bring this House back to a realization of the proper proportions of this matter. The loan in respect of the Lloyd Barrage Scheme amounts to about 23 crores and interest on that loan is somewhere in the neighbourhood of one crore and we are discussing an expenditure of about 1½ lakhs. In the singularly felicitous description of our proposals, for which, if I may say so, you, Sir, are responsible, as an insurance premium, I cannot think that anybody can regard an insurance premium of rather less than 1½ per cent. as wicked, wantonly, extravagant, wasteful and all those other beautiful epithets that have been applied to it. We are really losing our sense of proportion in this matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : And is the insurance premium to be paid by the creditor ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : If the creditor is himself going to be the gainer, it would be very wise to pay the premium.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is not the security of the Bombay Government sufficient for our purposes ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Bombay Government is not paying the interest in full now.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Take all measures that you can to enforce payment.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Most of the questions that have been discussed, Sir, are really irrelevant. This is a very small proposal. As I have said before, in relation to the amount of annual interest at stake, it is between 1 and 1½ per cent. These proposals were carefully considered by the Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India who is of opinion, not only that they are not wasteful, but that they are absolutely necessary. I am not an Agricultural Expert and I am absolutely incapable of answering the various technical agricultural questions which have been asked. But, as I say, the Agricultural Expert of the Government of India is satisfied that this expenditure is necessary.

One final word in regard to the exact status of this expenditure. For the time being we may regard it as a final charge upon the Government of India, but the amount of expenditure is being recorded and it will be taken into account and that decision will be either confirmed or modified if and when a final settlement in regard to the separation of Sind and Bombay is arrived at.

Sir, we have now been discussing this matter for over two hours. I think the House is now ready to come to a decision and I move that the question be now put.

(At this stage Mr. B. Das and some other Members rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Is the Chair to keep the debate open until every speaker has spoken ? Closure has been asked for more than once.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Of course, Sir, if you think that sufficient discussion has taken place we cannot say anything. But the Finance Member has made the astounding proposition that it is on the amount that this House has to decide and not on the principle. We come to this House sometimes even for a rupee if it is above the amount sanctioned in the budget and it is absurd and most fallacious.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. If it is contended that the Finance Member has made some new point which requires an answer, the Chair has no objection to allow one speaker, Mr. Neogy, to reply. In that case, the Chair has to allow the Finance Member again to reply if he wants.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Sir, I want the Honourable the Finance Member to realise that there are questions apart from purely agricultural ones which are involved in this particular demand for grant. I do not want to go into the various issues that have been so ably dealt with, particularly

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. But I should like to understand the constitutional implications of the statements made by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. We advanced a loan, I take it, to the Government of Bombay for the purpose of the construction of the Barrage, and we look to the Government of Bombay as being responsible for the repayment of the loan together with interest. I think there is sufficient provision in the Government of India Act and the Devolution Rules.....

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : This loan was given to the Bombay Government. The scheme was prepared by the Bombay Government in which Mr. Jadhav was present and then this project was sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State. So the Bombay Government is not the only responsible party.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : I am glad my Honourable friend has raised that point. I am concerned only with the constitutional question involved in this issue, and if my Honourable friend were to look at Devolution Rule 24, he will find this :

“ The capital sums spent by the Governor General in Council upon the construction in the various Provinces of productive and protective irrigation works and of such other works financed from loan funds, as may from time to time be handed over to the management of Local Governments, shall be treated as advances made to the Local Governments from the revenues of India. Such advances shall carry interest at the following rates,” etc., etc.

So that it is wholly beside the point to say that it was the Government of India that sanctioned the scheme. The Government of India has got to sanction the scheme. It does not at all matter which Government sanctions the scheme, whether it is the Bombay Government or whether it is the Government of India. So long as the amount spent upon this Barrage was provided by virtue of Devolution Rule 24, so long the Government of Bombay has got to be responsible for the repayment of the loan with full interest. It is not open to my Honourable friend to come to this House and say, “ Well, the Bombay Government finds it difficult to pay the interest, and, therefore, we have got to incur this additional expenditure in order to enable the Bombay Government to repay this loan ”. That is constitutionally an unsound proposition which we cannot allow to go unchallenged. The Honourable Member has himself very candidly said that he is not sure whether it is an advance, or a loan or a gift. I should like some one on the opposite side to point out anything in the Government of India Act or the Devolution Rules which can justify a demand of this character which my Honourable friend is not in a position to specifically characterise either as a loan or as a subvention. My Honourable friend must make up his mind as to whether it is going to be a free gift or a loan. There is no third proposition contemplated in the Government of India Act or the Devolution Rules. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend said that this amount was to be spent, if I heard him correctly, through the agency of the Council of Central Agricultural Research.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am sorry I made a mistake about that and I meant to correct that in my last remarks. The instrument

of payment will be the Bombay Government. I am sorry I made that mistake.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : I am glad my Honourable friend has made that correction. That saves me from making some remarks on this point as I intended to do. But I should like to know from my Honourable friend what the constitutional position of the Minister in charge of the transferred department will be with regard to the establishment and the department which is sought to be created with the help of this subvention. Everybody knows, Sir, that the expenditure for the purposes of the Provincial Administration, whether reserved or transferred, is primarily a charge on the revenues of the Province itself. Now, here, in this instance, it must not be forgotten that we are dealing with a transferred department in charge of a responsible Minister. My Honourable friend will, I hope, concede the point that whoever finds the money controls the policy. In this instance, it is the Government of India which are finding the money and the money is going to be made over to the responsible Minister in the Province. I should like to know in what manner the Government of India are going to share the responsibility of the Minister in charge of the transferred department in regard to the administration of the department which is going to be set up with the help of this subvention, shall I say? And if there is to be any division of responsibility between the Government of India on the one hand and the Minister in charge of the transferred department on the other, I should like my Honourable friend to point out any provision in the Government of India Act or the Devolution Rules to justify such a position. (*An Honourable Member :* "You cannot do it.") You cannot do it.

Now, Sir, I have no desire to go into the merits of the question. I
 6 P.M. am not at all concerned, as I said when I began, with all those points which have been very ably dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, should realise that he has suggested a constitutional innovation of a serious character and we on this side of the House cannot allow this innovation to be made with our concurrence.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That the supplementary demand for a sum of Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the 'salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 50,000."

The Assembly divided :

AYES—17.

Ba Maung, U
 Das, Mr. B.
 Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
 Gunjal, Mr. N. R.
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
 Jog, Mr. S. G.
 Krishnamachariar, Raja Bahadur G.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta,

Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
 Mitra, Mr. S. C.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Parma Nand, Bhai.
 Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
 Reddi, Mr. P. G.
 Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
 Sen, Mr. S. C.

NOES—46.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
 Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Raddi B.
 Bhoré, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Dulal, Dr. R. D.
 Duguid, Mr. A.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Grantham, Mr. S. G.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Hockenbuhl, Mr. F. W.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
 Lal Chaud, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.

Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Shafce Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu Abdullah Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Does Mr. Maswood Ahmad want to move the next amendment ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : But the Honourable Member cannot cover the whole ground.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : No, not the whole ground. Sir, I move :
 "That the demand for a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the 'salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 3,600."

I find in the report of the Standing Finance Committee that Rs. 300 per mensem has been provided on page 14 for the overseas allowance of the Agricultural Engineer. I say that in these days when the question of Indianisation is very prominent and Government also, on several occasions, have said themselves that they favour Indianisation, they should not have provided this Rs. 300 for giving an overseas allowance to the Agricultural Engineer. India is an agricultural country whereas England is not. An Agricultural Engineer who will come from overseas will certainly not have the experience required here at all ; and for this reason especially I want that this allowance should be omitted. Perhaps in the Standing Finance Committee a promise might have been given that this post will be advertised in India and an Indian will be appointed ; but I want that we should be sure on this question by omitting this item of overseas allowance. This is a pure and simple question of Indianisation and nothing else, and if the Government oppose my motion it means that they intend really to have a European Agricultural Engineer which we cannot allow at all. With these words I move that this overseas allowance of Rs. 300 a month should be omitted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Cut motion moved :

“ That the demand for a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the ‘ salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’ be reduced by Rs. 3,600.”

Mr. B. Das : I wish to support this amendment on the ground that I do not wish to take any responsibility for the appointment of the Engineer or the Agricultural Adviser. As has been pointed out, I am quite prepared to make a free gift to the Bombay Government even of Rs. ten lakhs a year without bearing the responsibility that this House agreed to the management of a mortgaged concern in the Sukkur Barrage scheme and when the scheme will not be able to pay interest on capital invested, then the Sind Government or the Bombay Government will come forward to the Finance Member and tell him that he was managing and so the Central Government will pay.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The Honourable Member can only discuss the point whether Rs. 300 overseas allowance should be retained or not.

Mr. B. Das : Then I have nothing more to say.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, although Honourable Members opposite may not regard it as a satisfactory position, the position is that this particular officer will be recruited by the Government of Bombay, and for my part I have no desire to fetter their discretion in the matter. I imagine that they will recruit the officer after advertisement, and it is to be hoped that they may find it possible to recruit the officer in India. Certainly they cannot but be aware of the desire of the Assembly which is going to make itself responsible for this expenditure that they should recruit the officer in this country. All I can do is to promise that the feeling of the House that they should do their utmost to recruit an Indian shall be conveyed to the Government of Bombay.

Mr. B. Das : Why should you not give an order when we foot the bill.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the appointment will be made by the Government of Bombay or by the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The actual appointment will be made by the Government of Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the demand for a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 in respect of the ‘ salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’ be reduced by Rs. 3,600.”

The Assembly divided.

AYES—16.

Ba Maung, U
Das, Mr. B.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath
Gunjal, Mr. N. R.
Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
Mitra, Mr. S. C.

Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Patil, Rao Bahadur B. I.
Reddi, Mr. P. G.
Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
Sen, Mr. S. C.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Upper Sahab Bahadur, Mr.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—43.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
 Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Raddi B.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Duguid, Mr. A.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grantham, Mr. S. G.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Hockenull, Mr. F. W.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.

Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rau, Mr. P. E.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu Abdullah Muhammad.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The next four motions are intended to be token cuts, and they are, therefore, out of order. One is for reduction of Rs. 100, another of Rs. ten, another of Rs. ten and another of Rs. five ; the Chair thinks they are intended to be token motions.

The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of the ‘ salaries and other expenses in connection with Agriculture ’.”

The Assembly divided.

AYES—46.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
 Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
 Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
 Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
 Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
 Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Raddi B.
 Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Duguid, Mr. A.
 Ghuznavi, Mr. A. H.
 Grantham, Mr. S. G.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Hockenull, Mr. F. W.

Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.
 Maswood, Ahmad, Mr. M.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.

Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.

Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd. Mr. E.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.
 Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu
 Abdullah Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

NOES—14.

Ba Maung, U
 Das, Mr. B.
 Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
 Gunjal, Mr. N. R.
 Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta.

Mitra, Mr. S. C.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
 Reddi, Mr. P. G.
 Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
 Sen, Mr. S. C.
 Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 28th August, 1934.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday 28th August, 1934.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

POSTAL AND DELIVERY FEES CHARGED FOR PARCELS SENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

826. ***Mr. F. E. James** : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is the usual practice to charge both a postal fee and a delivery fee, in addition to the ordinary postal charges, in the case of parcels sent to India from the United Kingdom ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Both postal and delivery fees are collected only on Cash-on-delivery (value-payable) parcels from the United Kingdom on which import customs duty is payable. The postal fee is realised from the addressee to remunerate the Department for the services rendered in connection with the clearance of such parcels through the customs and the collection of customs duty, while the delivery fee is levied in consideration of the extra service rendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in connection with Cash-on-delivery parcels.

SCHEMES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF INDIAN WOOL AND FOR INCREASING THE WEIGHT OF FLEECES.

827. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott** : (a) Will Government please state the number of sheep in India ?

(b) Is the average weight of a fleece in India about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds ?

(c) Is the average weight of an Australian fleece 6½ pound ?

(d) Will Government please state whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have any schemes for the improvement of the quality of Indian wool and for increasing the weight of fleeces ? If so, will Government please give details ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) About 42 millions.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, possibly a little more.

(d) Yes. A scheme for the improvement of local breeds in the Bombay Presidency has been sanctioned. Schemes for work on similar lines in Madras and Hyderabad and for the improvement of *dumba* sheep in Baluchistan are under consideration.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Is any scheme being considered for such improvement of breeds in the Punjab ?

(2179)

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, the schemes which I have mentioned are the only ones which have been considered so far.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Are Government aware that these *dumbas* are imported from Khorasan to Karachi and Sind, and besides that there are local breeds there also, and in Baluchistan also most likely such *dumbas* can be bred ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, I have stated that a scheme for the improvement of the breed of *dumba* sheep in Baluchistan is under consideration.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I ask which Province of India has the greatest number of sheep ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I am afraid I could not say what the provincial enumeration has been ; I have only given the figure for India as a whole.

SHEEP-BREEDING IN INDIA.

828. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** Do Government propose to see that an All-India scheme is laid down with experimental farms for sheep-breeding in the most suitable parts of each Province ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Several schemes for the improvement of Indian sheep, mainly from the point of view of wool production, were considered by a special Sub-Committee at the last meeting of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and a plan was agreed on for co-ordinated development of sheep-breeding in certain Provinces considered to be representative of the best sheep-breeding tracts.

SHEEP-BREEDING IN INDIA.

829. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware that Khorasan *dumba* (fat tailed Persian ewes) were exported to South Africa and formed the foundation of the South African wool industry ?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the importation of Khorasan ewes for Indian sheep-breeding experiments ?

(c) Do Government propose to see that a representative of the wool industry is appointed to the Cattle Breeding Committee ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Persian sheep are extensively bred in South Africa, but the Merino is understood to be the principal wool sheep of the Union.

(b) and (c). The suggestions will be referred to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for consideration.

EXPORTS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

830. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** Are Government aware that of the 56 million pounds exported, 43½ million pounds go to Great Britain, 7½ million pounds to the United States of America while the balance of 5 million pounds goes to other countries ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : As my Honourable friend has not stated what commodity he is referring to, I obviously cannot give him a reply. (Laughter.)

GRANT OF A DIFFERENTIAL DUTY ON RUGS AND BLANKETS.

831. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Are Government aware that the United Kingdom has asked for a differential duty on rugs and blankets and that the duty should be 25 per cent. on rugs and blankets from the United Kingdom and 35 per cent. for imports from foreign countries ?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the grant of this differential duty in the near future ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NIGHT VISION TEST OF GUARDS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

832. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Did the Agent, North Western Railway, modify his letter No. 290-E-21, dated the 21st June, 1930, addressed to the Divisional Superintendents, Delhi, Ferozepur, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Quetta and Rawalpindi, relating to the night vision examination of guards, by his letter No. 290-E-21, dated the 7th November, 1931 ? If so, has its modification been given effect to in all the divisions of the North Western Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that in different Divisions different rules are applied to those who have failed in the night vision test ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state whether Messrs. Fazel Din and Kanga were reduced to grade No. 2 in the Rawalpindi Division on the North Western Railway, who subsequently put in an appeal to the Agent ? Are Government aware that their appeal was accepted and the original grade granted to them ?

(d) Is it a fact that Messrs. Thakar Das and Dais in the Lahore Division and Messrs. Nathu Ram and Abdulla in Karachi Division and Mr. Bahadur Shah in Multan Division similarly failed in the night vision test, but are put on the duty of Luggage Guards and are drawing the emoluments of that post ? If so, why has a distinction been made in the case of Balaki Ram, Head Ticket Collector, Sangla Hill, who failed in the night vision test and has been applying for the last four years to be treated on equal terms with others ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information. The questions raised are matters of detail, entirely within the competence of the Local Railway Administration and Government are not prepared to interfere. I have, however, sent a copy of the question to the Agent, North Western Railway, for his information and such action as he may consider necessary.

Sardar Sant Singh : Does not the Railway Board insist that a uniform principle should be applied on one railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, I believe that there is no uniformity in this matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know that there are different rules on different Railways, and has the Railway Board ever thought of sending for those rules and considering whether they are fit for the Division for which they have been made ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, as my Honourable friend has studied all these rules, I dare say he knows the facts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : At any rate I have studied the rules on the North Western Railway, and I think they require improvement.

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend will suggest measures of improvement, I shall be happy to consider them.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know what is the function of the Railway Board in the matter of supervision over the different Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, the functions of the Railway Board do not extend to the examination of the question of whether particular persons should be employed as luggage guards or in any other capacity.

Sardar Sant Singh : I am afraid my Honourable friend has not understood me. What I mean to ask is whether the principle to be applied in the various Divisions on the same Railway is approved by the Railway Board or not.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, it will be seen from part (c) of this question that two members of the staff did appeal to the Agent, and their appeal succeeded. I do not see any reason why the others should not take a similar course.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know that there are different rules for different subordinates on the North Western Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am not aware of that, Sir.

CLOSING OF THE GATE NEAR LYALLPUR RAILWAY STATION ON THE GATI SIDE.

833 ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government please state how many trains pass between Lyallpur and Gati Railway station during 24 hours ?

(b) Is there a gate to pass vehicular traffic near Lyallpur station on Gati side ? How many times during the day is this gate closed to traffic for passing trains ?

(c) Are Government aware that motor traffic has to wait for a very long time on account of the closing of the gate ? If so, do Government propose to build an overbridge to put an end to the inconvenience caused to the public ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

CONTROL OF SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

834. ***Mr. Bhuput Singh :** Will Government be pleased to state the general policy of the North Western Railway Administration towards the control of Special Ticket Examiners, grades II, III, and above, particularly in regard to their transfers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 834 to 836 together.

All these deal with the detailed arrangements regarding transfers of Special Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway, which are arranged by the local administration in the interests of the public service, and Government are not prepared to interfere with them. I have sent copies of these questions to the Agent in order that he may consider the points raised by my Honourable friend.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that these Special Ticket Examiners have been making a special representation to the Railway Board in the matter of the treatment they have been given by the North Western Railway, and is it due to that that they have been victimised ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I know, Sir, that representations have been received by the Railway Board from these Tickets Examiners, but I have no information to lead me to believe that they are being victimised.

Sardar Sant Singh : Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry, lest they are victimised on that account ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend will give me definite cases of what he calls " victimisation ", I shall consider whether any special inquiry is necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The question suggests several inconveniences and also suggests that it would be very difficult for these people to remain outside economically also. Is the Railway Board going to consider these, or is it going to leave the Agent to consider them ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, when a transfer is effected, it obviously leads to inconveniences, but the interests of the public service must be paramount.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The point is that these are not ordinary transfers. There have never been transfers before, and they are laying down a different policy now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : What is the question ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I am asking, Sir, that this being the policy which is being laid down now, whether the Railway Board are going to confirm that policy or not, or are they going to say that they are quite indifferent ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, the Railway Board are not prepared to interfere with the transfers of Ticket Examiners from one part of the Railway to another.

Sardar Sant Singh : Even if it is the case that there is victimisation, as we believe that it is ? Sir, the allegation is that this is a case of victimisation. Will the Honourable Member interfere in that case ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend will give me a definite example of a particular person who has been victimised and of the particular circumstances in which that victimisation arose, I shall consider whether any special action is necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : There are only six persons involved. We have brought to notice the inconveniences and the fact of victimisation of these six persons, and we are, therefore, requesting the Honourable Member to say whether he is prepared to convince himself whether there has been victimisation or not.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I fail to understand, Sir, how six persons can give rise to 36 inter-departmental transfers. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is the Honourable Member going to consider that or not ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, if the gentlemen sitting on this side of the House, who have got the details regarding the names of the per-

sons involved, will bring the full facts to the Honourable Member's notice, will he be prepared to look into those cases, that is, if they give him particulars to show that there has been victimisation ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Yes, Sir.

INTER-DIVISIONAL TRANSFERS AMONG THE SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†835. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway authorities have launched a scheme of 36 inter-divisional transfers among the Special Ticket Examiners, in pursuance of which two batches of six men each have already been transferred ? If so, why have these batches been transferred ?

(b) Will Government please furnish a statement of cases of fraud against a Special Ticket Examiner, if any, arising out of his 'long stay', mentioning therein the punishment inflicted on the defaulter ?

(c) Will Government please state if any transfers of this nature were made among the Travelling Ticket Examiners between the 1st June, 1928, and the 1st June, 1931 ? If no transfers were made during that period, what is the justification for the present scheme of transfers among Special Ticket Examiners who are mostly old Travelling Ticket Examiners ?

(d) Will Government please state if there is any other branch of service which deals with the public ?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number and rank of such employees in that branch of service, together with the number of Special Ticket Examiners who have been staying in one division for more than seven years ? If these employees, who are solely controlled by Divisional authorities, are not transferred outside, why are the Special Ticket Examiners treated differently ?

INTER-DIVISIONAL TRANSFERS AMONG THE SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†836. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Are Government aware that the Special Ticket Examiners (old Travelling Ticket Examiners) of the North Western Railway were hardly hit by the conversion of their mileage allowances into very low rates of consolidated allowance ? If so, are Government also aware that their inter-divisional transfers, a scheme regarding which has been launched by the Railway Administration, will cause further pecuniary embarrassment to them ?

(b) Are Government aware that the standard of education varies in every Province and the books taught in different schools also differ ? If so, are Government aware that these transfers will affect the academic up-bringing of the dependents of these employees ?

(c) Will Government please state whether the North Western Railway has acquired the same position in finance as the one that existed before the economy campaign ? If not, what is the justification for these transfers involving high expenditure ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 831.

(d) Will Government be pleased to state in approximate figures the expenses that the North Western Railway authorities shall have to incur on enforcing these transfers? Could not this money be better spent on public welfare, etc.?

(e) Is it a fact that in reply to the appeals submitted by the Special Ticket Examiners against orders for transfers, the authorities replied that they are being transferred in the interest of service? If so, will Government be pleased to state what significance the authorities attach to the term 'in the interest of service'? Is this interest variable in different Divisions and at different places? If so, how?

(f) Has the Railway Administration laid down a policy that its employees should not be sent to serve at places far off from their home Divisions, except Quetta, so that there may arise no necessity of their going on long leave, off and on, to look after their private affairs and thus hamper the smooth working of the Administration? If so, why are the authorities enforcing their transfers, particularly of Special Ticket Examiners who are being sent very far off from their homes, such as Sindhis to Delhi and North West Frontier Province men to Karachi?

RE-ORGANISATION OF THE CANTONMENTS DEPARTMENT.

837. ***Rai Sahib Badri Lal Rastogi** : Have Government under contemplation any scheme for the re-organisation of the Cantonments Department? If so, how long is it expected to take before the department starts functioning under the new scheme?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : A scheme for the re-organisation of the Cantonments Department is under consideration, but it is as yet impossible to say when it will be introduced.

EMPLOYMENT OF WIRELESS OPERATORS IN THE INDIAN COAST AND LAND STATIONS.

838. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Will Government please state how many wireless operators are employed by the Government of India in the Indian coast and land stations?

(b) What is the system of recruitment of these men?

(c) Is it a fact that signallers in the Telegraph Department are often selected for wireless training for these posts?

(d) Are Government aware that there are a good number of privately trained and experienced persons with proper certificates from the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(e) Is it a fact that the Government of India will soon recruit a few experienced wireless operators for the post of wireless inspectors for ships? If so, how will recruitment for these posts be made?

(f) Do Government propose to see that wireless operators with proper certificates and practical experience at sea are considered qualified for the post of land and coast stations?

(g) Is it a fact that three years' experience at sea is considered as six years' in land and coast stations?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The total number of wireless operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is at present 114. This number excludes personnel of the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Indian Marine employed in those services.

(b) and (c). Wireless operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department are now recruited only from telegraphists already employed in that Department.

(d) A number of private candidates have been examined and granted certificates of competency after qualifying. Government have no information as to the experience of these men.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(f) Government do not intend to modify the existing system of recruitment of wireless operators employed in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(g) No.

INDIANS AS WIRELESS OPERATORS UNDER MESSRS MARCONI AND COMPANY ON THE INDIAN COAST.

839. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Are Government aware that Messrs. Marconi and Company (British Wireless Marine Service), employ nationals of the country in the Wireless Operators' service in China and other foreign coasts ?

(b) Are Government in a position to state if there are Indians in the Wireless Operators' service under Messrs. Marconi and Company, on the Indian coast ? If so, how many, and if not, what is the reason ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Government have no information.

(b) There are no Indian wireless operators in the service of the Marconi International Marine Communication Company on the Indian coast. It is understood that this is due to suitable Indian candidates possessing the requisite qualifications not being available.

Sardar Sant Singh : Will the Honourable Member explain how is it that, out of the 35 million people living in India, not a single man has been found to be qualified enough to be employed by this Company ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : My Honourable friend has referred to a very restricted part of India. I do not know to which part of India he refers when he mentions 35 million people.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government explain how they know that there are no qualified persons ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I can give no guarantee on that point. As my Honourable friend will realise, we are not in a position to bring pressure to bear on this Company which is an International Company, but such information as we have goes to show that suitable Indian candidates are not available. Of course, Government cannot say definitely that there are no such candidates available.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is this Marconi International Marine Communication Company in receipt of any assistance, financial or otherwise, from the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : Not that I know of.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government contemplating any action to provide suitable training to the Indians, so that they may be able to get employment with this Company in the future ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : The question of giving a short course of training on the " Dufferin " is being seriously gone into.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state whether these posts, when they fall vacant, are advertised in India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : My Honourable friend is, I think, confused about the status and position of this Company. It is an International Company and we have nothing whatsoever to do with the appointments made by it.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Arising out of part (a) of my question, do not Government consider it advisable that they should also inquire like other Governments that the Indian nationals may be employed on the coast line of India as other countries are doing ? Why do the Government refuse even to make inquiries ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : We have no information to show that my Honourable friend's suggestion is correct.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : If the Government have got no information on the point, is it not their duty to secure that information ? I have specifically mentioned in my question that other Governments are having their nationals on the staff of this Company.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : If my Honourable friend will give me the information upon which he bases his statement, I shall consider it ; but I shall certainly not consider it on a mere allegation.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : It is not a mere allegation. When I specifically say that other Governments are getting their nationals employed in the service of the Company on their coast line, why should not the Government of India make an inquiry in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I am not prepared to accept a mere statement, but if my Honourable friend gives the evidence upon which that statement is based, I shall be happy to look into it.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Do Government propose to ask the authorities to advertise these posts in India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : No.

ALLOTMENT OF NEW QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

840. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Will Government please state whether the new quarters recently built in New Delhi have all been allotted to the Secretariat staff ?

(b) Will Government please state the number of clerks who applied for quarters in New Delhi from the Secretariat proper only, and the number whose demands have been met ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The new quarters have been allotted to members of the staff both of the Secretariat proper and of the Attached Offices.

(b) There were 900 applications for quarters (old and new) from members of the staff of the Secretariat proper. 800 quarters have been allotted against these applications.

ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF IN NEW DELHI.

841. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** (a) In view of the fact that a large number of quarters have been constructed and allotted and a considerable amount has been spent on them, will Government please state whether they contemplate sanctioning the (i) separation allowance i.e., Delhi Lump Sum Allowance, (ii) Conveyance Allowance and (iii) Delhi House Rent Allowance, for the next winter season ?

(b) If no decision has yet been reached as regards the sanction of these allowances, do Government propose to announce their decision as early as possible, preferably before the downward move begins ? If not, why not ?

(c) Are Government aware that in the absence of their decision about the sanction or otherwise of these allowances, the staff will be put to a great inconvenience in making arrangements for houses ? If so, do they propose to take the action as suggested in part (b) of this question ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) to (c). The grant of these allowances is mainly dependent on the extent to which it is possible to provide the migratory staff with residential accommodation in Delhi. The question whether the allowances should be granted this year is under consideration and orders will be issued as soon as a decision is reached.

CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN ADDITIONS TO A PRAYER AND STORES SHED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.

842. ***Bhai Parma Nand :** Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take against the officer-in-charge for allowing the construction of certain additions to a prayer and store shed in the Government of India Press, Aligarh, without obtaining sanction of the Government of India to do so ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : After careful review of all the facts of the case, Government did not consider that any action was called for beyond informing the two officers who were successively in charge of the Press at the time the additions were made that they should not have permitted them. Instructions have since been issued which should prevent unauthorised constructions of the kind referred to in the question in future.

POST OF ASSISTANT MANAGER IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.

843. ***Bhai Parma Nand :** Will Government be pleased to state whether the designation of the Assistant Manager, Aligarh Press, has been altered to Overseer and the salary reduced to a lower rate than that drawn by the present incumbent ? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the experienced Assistant Manager's services are not utilised in a second

class press, and he is not replaced by a man on a lower rate of salary for the reason that Aligarh Forms Press is a third-grade Press ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : It has been decided to convert the post of Assistant Manager, Forms Press, Aligarh, into that of an Overseer on lower pay as soon as it is vacated by its present incumbent. The Honourable Member will appreciate that the economy which he wishes to see effected will not be secured unless a vacancy occurs in another post to which the present Assistant Manager of the Aligarh Press can be transferred. When such a vacancy occurs the question of a transfer will be considered on its merits.

**ALLEGED WORKING OF A PEON AS COOK TO THE ASSISTANT MANAGER,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.**

844. *Bhai Parma Nand : Is it a fact that a peon, Zahir Uddin, borne on the regular establishment of the Aligarh Government Press, does not work in the Press, and works as a cook to the present Assistant Manager ? If so, why do Government grant this indulgence in these days of retrenchment campaign ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I am informed that the peon in question has worked as cook to the Assistant Manager out of office hours in addition to performing his office duties. I have issued orders that this objectionable practice must stop.

FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR.

845. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Will Government be pleased to state with reference to the answers given on the 6th August, 1934, to my question on floods in North Bihar, whether their attention has been drawn to the statement published by the Secretary, Bihar Central Relief Committee, dated Patna, August 7, stating that an area of 150 square miles is still under water ?

(b) If so, why was no mention made in the *communiqués* issued by the Government of Bihar and Orissa on July 18, 19 and 26 and in the Government of Bihar's letter, dated the 30th July, of the conditions prevailing in Madhipura Sub-division of the Bhagalpur district, about which an alarming report has been published by the Bihar Central Relief Committee ?

“ The situation in Madhipura sub-division of Bhagalpur would appear to be worse. The quake has caused.....immediate necessities.”

(c) What ‘ necessary relief measures have been organised by the Local Government ’ as mentioned in the answer to my last question on the subject ?

(d) What provision has been made out of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund towards the flood relief in North Bihar, particularly Madhipura Sub-division ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) The *Communiqués* referred to floods on the Sikarana Burgandak, and Bagmati rivers which do not affect Madhipura.

(c) The relief organisation devised by the Local Government included the provision of several hundred boats and crews, two motor boats

and an aeroplane for reconnoitring purposes. A complete organisation was formed for the use of these boats, the rescue of the inhabitants of the flooded villages and the provision of food for men and cattle. The arrangements are reported to have worked with great efficiency. Several thousands of refugees were brought into Muzaffarpur and housed in one of the temporary colonies. Work was found for the able-bodied, and those unable to work were given food and clothing. Rs. 50,000 have been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner for charitable relief and Rs. 60,000 for *takavi* in connection with the floods. Arrangements for the distribution of seed and seedlings through the agricultural department have been made.

(d) It is understood that no provision has been made out of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund towards flood relief in Madhipura sub-division, since the floods in that sub-division have no connection with the earthquake. In the Tirhut district the Collectors have been authorised to make grants from the Fund for the repair of houses which collapsed in the flood, since the severity of the flood is partly due to the changes in river channels caused by the earthquake and in some parts to local changes in the levels of village sites. Relief expenditure under other heads is being met from Provincial revenues. The Local Government as such have no concern with the expenditure from the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund, though relief from that fund is co-ordinated with expenditure from the Famine Relief Fund of the Local Government.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know, Sir, what is the latest information of the Government with regard to the flood situation in Patna and Shahabad ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am answering a short notice question, with the permission of the Chair, tomorrow on that subject, and my answer will include reading a telegram from the Local Government giving such details as are available.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : With regard to the floods in North Bihar, about which this question has been asked, I should like to know the total amount of money which has been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Tirhut Division or any other officer to cope with the situation arising out of the floods ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The floods of North Bihar are mentioned in my question, and I am asking a supplementary question which arises out of that question. I want to know the total amount of money which the Government have placed at the disposal of the local officers to meet the situation that might have arisen out of the floods in North Bihar.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have already said that Rs. 50,000 have been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner for charitable relief and Rs. 60,000 for *takavi* in connection with the floods. That is the Commissioner of one Division.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You mean to say that this sum has been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Tirhut Division which includes the districts of Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Darbhanga and Saran,

but what about Madhipura and other areas of North Bihar where floods have occurred ? I want to know what amount of money has been placed at the disposal of the local officers to meet the situation there ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

PROPOSED VISIT OF MISS MAYO TO INDIA.

846. ***Mr. Bhuput Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to reports in the Press that Miss Mayo, nicknamed ' The Notorious Drain Inspector ', is again coming out to India this winter ?

(b) If so, are Government aware of the deep resentment felt by Indians against her on account of her past activities ?

(c) Do Government propose not to allow her to land in this country ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) and (c). I have seen a Press report to the effect that Miss Mayo proposes to visit India, but no request for a visa for India has so far been referred to us.

(b.) I am aware that her book entitled " Mother India " aroused resentment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask, Sir, if she is coming to India with the help of Government ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have no information whether she is coming to India or not. I have only seen a statement in the Press that she proposes to visit India.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : Are Government aware that Miss Mayo's book has been the prelude to the introduction of some Bills in this House, and that one of them has become the law of the land, I mean the Child Marriage Restraint Act ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am not aware of the precise connection between that Act and Miss Mayo's book, but I will take the Honourable Member's word for it.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : In case Miss Mayo visits India, may I take it that the Government of India will afford no assistance to her as was done on the last occasion when, I understand, she was allowed to stay in Government Houses and other places and she had also access to Government records ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That is an entirely hypothetical question. It is impossible for me to answer that question until I know whether she intends to visit India and with what object.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that on the last occasion, when she visited India, arrangements were made for her stay by Government, and also some officers of Government were placed at her disposal and she also had access to some records of Government offices ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That suggestion formed the subject-matter of questions in this Assembly as far back as 1928, and, so far as I recollect, I am speaking subject to correction, it was made

perfectly clear that Miss Mayo received no exceptional facilities of any kind whatever beyond the ordinary courtesies shown to travellers from other countries.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Are Government aware that the Publicity Officer of the Government of India rendered assistance to Miss Mayo and she thanked this officer for the help rendered to her and also acknowledged that her book would not have seen the light of the day but for his assistance ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am not aware of that. I do not believe that statement is entirely accurate. I think it has been contradicted on behalf of Government across the floor of the House.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know what was the ordinary courtesies which were shown to her and which have been shown to the innumerable tourists who visit this country in their private capacity ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : So far as I remember, no courtesies were shown to her which are not shown to ordinary tourists.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : What is the courtesy shown to ordinary tourists ? Are they given access to Government records and do they stay in Government Houses. We do not object to Miss Mayo coming to India, but I want that the Government of India should give no assistance to her. Let 20 of them come by all means, I do not mind. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : As far as I know, Miss Mayo was not allowed any access to Government records.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that Government purchased a large number of copies of " Mother India " ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That statement has been repeatedly contradicted on behalf of Government across the floor of the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Was she received as a guest in any Government House ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I do not know.

Mr. Bhuput Sing : What is the answer to part (c) of my question ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : My answer to parts (a) and (c) was, I have seen a Press report to the effect that Miss Mayo proposes to visit India, but no request for a *visa* for India has so far been referred to us.

ARRANGEMENTS IN INDIA FOR THE JUBILEE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S REIGN.

847. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state with reference to the statement made in the House of Commons regarding the Silver Jubilee celebration, what arrangements have been made for the representation of India at the ceremonies ?

(b) What expenditure, if any, is proposed to be made on behalf of India ?

(c) Will the Princes and Leaders of the people in India be invited to join the festivities and rejoicings in London and to offer presents and gifts ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar's question No. 511 on the 9th August, 1934, to which I have nothing to add.

(b) and (c). These matters will be considered in due course.

REFRESHER COURSE ON STATE RAILWAYS.

848. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : Is it a fact that Government informed this House on the 18th July, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 576, dated the 3rd April, 1934, that the failure in a Refresher Course does not result in forfeiture of appointment ? If so, will Government please state whether the principles stated in their reply are applicable to all State Railways, including the East Indian Railway ? If not, why should any distinction exist on different State Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : As regards the first part of the question, I can only say that my Honourable friend has not quoted my reply in full.

As regards the second part of the question, I understand that the practice on the East Indian Railway is somewhat different. Government are enquiring into the matter.

RULES FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AND TRADE APPRENTICES IN STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

849. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : Is it a fact that Government stated that a separate circular on the subject was issued by the Agent, East Indian Railway, in April, 1933 ? If so, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the said circular along with the rules for the recruitment and training of Apprentice Mechanics and Trade Apprentices in the Workshops of State-managed Railways ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have placed a copy of the circular in question in the Library of the House. A copy of the recruitment rules referred to is already in the Library.

RULES FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

850. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : (a) With reference to their reply to part (b) of starred question No. 1328, dated the 11th December, 1933, laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, will Government please state how far the report of the Agent, East Indian Railway, is in accordance with the orders of the Railway Board circulated under the Agent's No. 548/A. E.-2460, dated the 1st October, 1932 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board, in the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff, laid down under Rule 2, that appointments bearing the same designation shall form a class, and

gave an illustration thereto ? If so, why has the Agent now formed a class with two designations ?

(c) What are the higher appointments in the Ticket Checking branch and where are they prescribed as such in the rules ? If none, why are they now termed as such and, why were they not considered as such when the rules were framed and opinions called for ?

(d) What are the scales of pay of the different grades and the strength of each grade as sanctioned ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) I suggest it is rather for my Honourable friend to point out in what respect he considers they are at variance.

(b) As the Honourable Member realises, the example given in the Railway Board's rules was illustrative.

As regards the second part, on the information contained in the question, Government do not consider that the action of the Agent is contrary to the rules.

(c) and (d). A statement containing the information readily available is placed on the table.

Statement showing the grades and strength of Ticket Checking Staff on East Indian Railway.

No.	Designation.	Scale of Pay.
6	Chief Inspectors	240—20—460
6	Inspectors, Grade I	200—10—220
5	Inspectors, Grade II	150—10—190
232	Travelling Ticket Examiners, Grade I	70—5—95
414	Travelling Ticket Examiners, Grade II	55—3—64
2	Head Ticket Collectors, Grade I	200—10—220
5	Head Ticket Collectors, Grade II	150—10—190
2	Assistant Head Ticket Collectors	110—5—140
43	Ticket Collectors, Grade I	70—5—95
96	Ticket Collectors, Grade II	55—3—64
673	Ticket Collectors, Grade III	37—3—52
39	Lady Ticket Collectors	75—5—125

PERSONS DISCHARGED BY THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MORADABAD, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

851. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : (a) With reference to the reply to the starred question No. 312,

dated the 2nd March, 1934, laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, will Government please state whether these discharges are not against rule 6 of the rules circulated with the Railway Board's letter No. 4080-F., dated the 10th October, 1930, wherein no provision is made to discharge a man as per his term of agreement ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has ordered the deletion from the agreement of this term since the introduction of the rules regarding discharge and dismissal ?

(c) What is the number of the staff discharged as per term of agreement during the period from 1st January, to 31st July, 1934, by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway ?

(d) Will Government please state the length of service, pay, appointment held when discharge and adverse remarks made during the service of the men discharged as per term of agreement during the period 1st January, 1933, to 31st July, 1934 ?

(e) Do Government propose to take disciplinary action against the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, for the infringement of the rules, and to reinstate the staff who are discharged as per terms of agreement ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the explanation under rule 6 of the "Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants" which would show that Railway Administrations possess the power of discharging a railway servant in accordance with the terms of his agreement.

(b) No.

(c) Ten.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) No.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Has my Honourable friend consulted rule 6 mentioned in this question ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Has my Honourable friend read the explanation under rule 6 ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Yes.

SUPERSESSIONS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

852. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : Are Government aware that supersession is the order of the day on the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway ? If not, will Government please state :

(a) (i) the special reasons for the appointment of **Mr. Ram Lal Saigal**, Assistant Station Master, Amroha as Assistant Section Controller ;

(ii) the rate of pay he was drawing as an Assistant Station Master ;

(iii) the rate of pay he is permitted to draw as an Assistant Controller ;

- (iv) his position amongst the Assistant Station Masters ;
- (v) the intervening scales of pay ;
- (vi) the avenue of advancement ;
- (vii) the number of Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters whom he has superseded ?
- (b) (i) the special reasons for the appointment of Mr. P. R. Barnard, Guard, Moradabad, as Controller ;
- (ii) the rate of pay he is drawing as a Guard ;
- (iii) the rate of pay he is permitted to draw as a Controller ;
- (iv) his position amongst the guards ;
- (v) the intervening scales of pay ;
- (vi) the avenue of advancement ;
- (vii) the number of guards, assistant station masters (Higher Grade) section controllers, assistant yard masters whom he has superseded ;
- (c) whether the instructions contained in Agent's circular No. 548/A./E.-2460 of the 1st October, 1932, were observed in these cases ; if not, why not ; and
- (d) whether Government propose to hold an independent and impartial inquiry into the state of affairs ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information and see no reason to interfere in the appointments of the nature indicated which are entirely within the competence of the Local Railway Administration. I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for his information and such action as he may consider necessary.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did the Honourable Member say on the floor of the House that he would send all the questions in connection with the Moradabad Division to the Agent for an enquiry ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Yes, Sir.

REDUCTIONS AND TRANSFERS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

853. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** (on behalf of Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen) : Is it a fact that substantive permanent holders of appointments after working for some months without any charge, are reduced and transferred to other branch or group by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway ? If not, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the Divisional Superintendent's letters No. E. T.-3/33/E. T.-7, dated the 31st January, 1933, and No. E. T.-3/34/E. T.-7, dated the 5th March, 1934, together with a copy of the rules, regulations or special orders contrary to Fundamental Rule 15 or paragraph 300 of the Open Line Code for State Railways, Volume II, justifying such action ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information, and are not prepared to interfere unless my Honourable friend will explain clearly in what particulars the orders referred to by him are contrary to Fundamental Rules.

SUPERSESSIONS IN THE DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

854. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Are Government aware that supersession is the order of the day in the Delhi Division, North Western Railway ? If not, will Government please state :

- (a) the number of appeals received by the Agent against the promotions of juniors among the Ticket Collectors in the grade 33—3—60 during the period 29th September, 1932, up to date ;
- (b) what action has been taken to set right the said supersession ; if none, why not ;
- (c) the cause of delay in disposing of the said appeals since 29th September, 1932 ;
- (d) the date by which the said appeals are likely to be decided ;
- (e) the length of period required to dispose of an appeal ;
- (f) if the period of over two years is not sufficiently long ;
- (g) whether they propose to deviate from their well established practice in compensating them with retrospective effect ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Government have no information to substantiate the allegation in the first part of the question and do not consider that the collection of the information required in the rest of the question will yield results commensurate with the expenditure of time and labour involved in its collection.

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

855. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 725, asked on the 16th April, 1934, will Government please state whether a principle laid down on the North Western Railway, is applicable on all State Railways, including East Indian Railway ? If not, why not, and what is the reason of such discriminations on State Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Obviously local rules issued by one railway administration cannot be binding on other railway administrations. Government have not attempted to make the procedure in minor matters uniform on all State Railways.

CERTAIN OFFICERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

856. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that Government have informed this House on the 4th April, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 632, that Administrative grades should be filled in the ratio of 2 to 1 by officers of the East Indian Railway cadre and the State Railway cadre, respectively ? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) the names and cadres of administrative grades held by officers during the period from 1st July, 1925, to 30th June, 1934 ;

(b) the name and cadre of the officers who held during the period from 1st July, 1925, to 30th June, 1934 or hold the following appointments :

- (1) Agent.
- (2) Deputy Agents.
- (3) Secretaries to Agent.
- (4) Chief Engineer.
- (5) Deputy Chief Engineers.
- (6) Divisional and Sub-Divisional Engineers.
- (7) Chief Mechanical Engineer.
- (8) Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers.
- (9) Divisional or Sub-Divisional Mechanical Engineers.
- (10) Chief Electrical Engineer.
- (11) Deputy Chief Electrical Engineers.
- (12) Divisional or Sub-Divisional Electrical Engineers.
- (13) Chief Operating Superintendent.
- (14) Deputy Chief Operating Superintendents.
- (15) Divisional Superintendents.
- (16) Superintendents, Transportation (Traffic, Power, Rolling Stock, Commercial Staff).
- (17) Assistant Superintendents (Traffic Power, Rolling Stock Commercial Staff).
- (18) Chief Commercial Manager.
- (19) Deputy Chief Commercial Manager.
- (20) Officers on special duty, etc., etc. ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Yes.

(a) and (b). Government regret their inability to compile the statistics for the period of nine years as asked for. If my Honourable friend is specially interested he will find all the details required by him in the Classified Lists of State Railway Establishment for the years 1925 to 1934, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

DEFINITION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, ETC., ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

857. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Will Government please define :

- (a) Local Governments ;
- (b) Local Administrations ; and
- (c) Heads of Department ;

on the Railways in India ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). Presumably my Honourable friend is referring to the definitions of these terms for the purpose of the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules. The words ' Local Government ' and ' Local Administration ' are defined in Fundamental Rule 9 (15) and

Supplementary Rule 214 respectively. These have no special reference to Railways in India, but various authorities on Railways have been invested with powers corresponding to the powers exercisable by Local Governments and Local Administrations under the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules. I would refer my Honourable friend to Appendices Nos. 4 and 13 in the Compilation of the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules issued by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.

(c) A list of heads of departments will be found in Appendix 14 of the same publication.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether by heads of departments he means those officers under the Agent to whom have been delegated powers equal to that of the Agent of a Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The heads of departments are defined specially in Appendix 14 of the publication referred to, and I would invite the attention of my Honourable friend to that.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member supply me with a copy of that publication or tell me where I can get it ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : A copy is available in the Library of the House.

CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS, ETC., ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

858. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Will Government please state the section of the Railways Act or any other notification under which :

- (a) Local Governments,
- (b) Local Administrations, and
- (c) Heads of Departments,

on the Railways in India, are constituted ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : These expressions are not defined in the Railways Act. If my Honourable friend's question refers to the authorities in the Railway Department corresponding to these authorities the answer has been given in my reply to his previous question.

APPLICABILITY OF RAILWAY BOARD NOTIFICATION NO. 3352-E., TO CERTAIN RAILWAY SERVICES.

859. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Will Government please state whether Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification No. 3352-E., dated Simla, the 28th April, 1932, is applicable to :

- (a) All-India Services on Railways in India ;
- (b) Provincial Services on Railways in India ;
- (c) Subordinate Services on Railways in India ; and
- (d) Inferior Services on Railways in India ?

If not, under what notification, the Classification, Control, Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules for the said services are published in the Gazette of India ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The persons to whom the notification applies are specified in the notification itself.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF SERVICES ON THE RAILWAYS.

860. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact, that under Notification (Public) No. F. 472-11-23, dated Simla, the 21st June, 1924, by the Home Department of the Government of India the Services are classified ? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) whether the Services (All-India) on the Railways in India are under the administrative control of the Government of India or of the Agents of respective Railways ;
- (b) the nature of the posts or appointments exclusively reserved for All-India Services on the Railways in India ;
- (c) whether the Provincial Services on the Railways in India are under the administrative control of the Government of India or of the Railway Board or of the Agents of respective Railways ;
- (d) the nature of the posts or appointments exclusively reserved for Provincial Services on the Railways in India ;
- (e) whether the Subordinate Services on the Railways in India are under the administrative control of the Government of India, or of the Agents of respective Railways, or of the Heads of Departments, or the Divisional Superintendents, or any Subordinate authority under them ;
- (f) the nature of the posts or appointments exclusively reserved for Subordinate Services on the Railways in India ; and
- (g) whether the said notification is applicable to the services on the Railways in India ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The reply to the introductory portion of the question is in the affirmative, but the Notification referred to has been superseded as regards classification of services by the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules published with Home Department Notification No. F. 9[3]30-Ests., dated the 19th June, 1930, as amended from time to time.

(a) The Railway Services, Class I, are under the administrative control of the Governor General in Council.

(b) There are none so reserved. Railway services are not included among the All-India Services.

(c) On Railways, the Lower Gazetted Services correspond to a certain extent to the provincial services. They are at present under the control of the Railway Board.

(d) Certain junior posts of Assistant Officers are in the Lower Gazetted Services.

(e) The subordinate services on State-managed Railways are under the administrative control of the Agent. The control exercised by authorities subordinate to the Agent is only to the extent to which the powers may have been delegated to them by the Agent.

(f) All non-gazetted posts other than posts in inferior service on State-managed Railways are considered as belonging to the subordinate services.

(g) No. The Notification referred to, so long as it remained in force, applied only to superior railway services.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Is it not a general impression and complaint that there is a lot of favouritism in the matter of appointments to the railway services ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am not aware of that impression, Sir, but if that impression exists, it is incorrect.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member state whether or not he has received many complaints about favouritism being practised on the railways, especially from me ? (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Honourable Member state if there is any notification or rule laying down the powers of control of the Railway Board itself ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I should like to have notice of that question.

APPLICABILITY OF CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE AND APPEAL RULES TO SUBORDINATE AND INFERIOR SERVICES ON THE RAILWAYS.

861. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it a fact that the principles laid down in Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification No. 3352-E., dated Simla, the 28th April, 1932, Part VII-Conduct and Discipline and Part VIII-Appeals—are applicable to Subordinate and Inferior Services on the Railways in India ? If not, why not ?

(b) Were any rules confirmatory to Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification No. 3352-E., dated the 28th April, 1932, Part VII-Conduct and Discipline and Part VIII-Appeals notified to the Subordinate and Inferior Services on the Railways in India ? If so, when, and under what notification ? Will Government please lay a copy of the same on the table of this House ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Part VII and Part VIII of the notification deal only with members of Railway Services, Classes I and II. Subordinate and Inferior Services are governed by the direction made by the Secretary of State in Council delegating to the Governor General in Council full powers of control over other railway servants.

(b) Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants, issued in November 1929, by the Railway Board, continue in force under rule 6 of Part I of the notification referred to. A copy of these rules is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Do not the Government think that the time has really arrived when, so far as appointments to the Railways are concerned, there should be some Appointment Board or Selection Board where the claims of the candidates may be considered ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I think, Sir, that hardly arises out of this question which refers to appeals in regard to conduct and discipline.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether or not it is a fact that many posts that are supposed to be filled by selection by a Selection Committee are selected by one officer and not by a Selection Board ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not think that arises out of this question either, Sir.

RULES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF MEMORIALS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

862. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that under Notifications (Public), No. F.472-11-1—23 and No. F.472-11-2—23, dated Simla, the 21st June, 1924, by the Home Department of the Government of India, the Railway Department (Railway Board) is regarded as the Local Government in respect of memorials and other papers of the same class (appeals and petitions) from persons subordinate to it ? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) the notification under which the powers so delegated to the Railway Board are exercised by the Agents of respective Railways ;
- (b) the notification under which the Agents have delegated the powers of the Railway Board to the Heads of Department or the Divisional Superintendents or any other subordinate authority ; and
- (c) if no such powers are delegated, the authority, under which the Agent or Head of Department or Divisional Superintendent either withheld them or informed the petitioner that no petition lies to the authorities ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Yes. These notifications have, however, been superseded by Home Department's notifications Nos. F.-6/7/43-I. and F.-6/7/33-II, dated the 19th June, 1934, respectively. Powers delegated under these notifications are exercised only by the authorities to whom they are delegated and not by any lower authority.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Are these new notifications in the Library ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That question must be addressed to the Home Department, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Home Department kindly inform me ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Ask for notice. (Laughter.)

ACTION TAKEN ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS BY THE AGENTS OF RAILWAYS.

863. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that Mr. P. R. Rau in reply to the starred question, No. 1351 of the 11th December, 1933, informed this House that he shall go through the 47 questions referred to therein, and shall see which of those came within the terms of the ruling ? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) which of those questions are outside the terms of the ruling ;
- (b) when the replies to these questions, are to be laid on the table of this House ;
- (c) the minimum and maximum period taken in collecting information from the East Indian Railway authority ; and
- (d) whether Government have issued any instructions to the Railways that answers to questions be specially expedited with

the least possible delay and to see that the report or information contain nothing but truth ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

(a) and (b). Replies to all the questions which, in the opinion of Government, came within the terms of the Honourable the President's ruling have already been placed on the table of the House.

(c) Government do not consider that the labour involved in compiling this information will be justified by results.

(d) Government consider such instructions to be quite unnecessary.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTION *re* PROPRIETARY RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN THE LAND.

864. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them on the Resolution adopted by this House on the 7th September, 1933, regarding proprietary rights of citizens in the land ?

(b) Was a copy of the debate on the Resolution forwarded to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and to the Secretary of State for India ?

(c) Was any recommendation made by the Government in forwarding the debate ?

(d) Have Government received any assurance that proper safeguards on the lines suggested in the Resolution will be provided in the new constitution ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the correspondence on the table of this House ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) to (c). The debate on the Resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State for India, with the suggestion that copies be transmitted to the Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform. No further correspondence has ensued.

(d) No.

(e) Beyond the forwarding letter, of which the substance has been given in the answer to parts (a)---(c), there has been no correspondence.

†865*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LAND MORTGAGE BANKS.

866. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have formulated any definite scheme of rural credit through the agency of Land Mortgage Banks ? If not, why not ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a wide spread feeling amongst the landholders that no Government measures, unless they are supplemented by a scheme of land mortgage banks, will relieve the economic distress of the agricultural classes ?

†This question will be answered on the 30th August, 1934.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). The question was examined by the Provincial Economic Conference in April, 1934. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 6 of the Finance Department Resolution No. F-16 (1)-F.34, dated the 5th May, 1934, which states the conclusions of the Government of India thereon.

PROPOSALS FOR THE AMALGAMATION AND RE-ORGANISATION OF STATE RAILWAYS.

867. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have any proposals for the amalgamation and re-organisation of State Railways under consideration ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Pope Enquiry Committee made a definite recommendation to this effect, and specially the amalgamation of the Eastern Bengal Railway with the East Indian Railway ?

(c) What savings are likely to accrue as a result of the amalgamation ?

(d) What difficulties stand in the way of the amalgamation at an early date ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) and (b). The Pope Committee have stressed the possibility of improved efficiency and economies in the operation of railways in India obtainable through amalgamation of railways, and have adduced as examples the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways in Bombay and the East Indian and the Eastern Bengal Railways in Calcutta. The feasibility of such amalgamation is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) It is impossible to estimate savings till Government have made up their mind as to the railways which can be amalgamated.

(d) One of the most important difficulties is the existence of Company-managed Railways, which can only be taken over by the State at certain dates fixed according to the contracts.

SAVINGS EFFECTED AS A RESULT OF THE POPE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

868. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what economies have been recommended by the officers working on the Job Analysis as a result of the Pope Enquiry Committee on each State Railway ?

(b) What economies have been agreed to by the Agent of each Railway ?

(c) What economies have already been brought into effect ?

(d) How many Railway vacant lands and buildings have been rented and sold as a result of the Pope Committee's recommendations and how much income has accrued therefrom ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) to (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the memorandum printed at page 5 of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways which met on the 13th August, 1934. This gives full details of economies achieved up to the 31st March, 1934.

(d) The Railway Board have discussed this matter with Railway Administrations, and have directed them to bear in mind the possibility of increasing revenue from this source. There are, however, certain difficulties in following up the recommendation, not the least of which is possible litigation. In any case, from reports received from Railways, substantially increased returns are not to be expected from this item.

PAY, ETC., GRANTED TO THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY STAFF.

869. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : With reference to the information laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 746 asked on the 17th April, 1934, will Government please state :

- (a) whether the scale of pay admissible under East Indian Railway Company Rules automatically becomes the scale of pay of an employee of a State Railway (Oudh and Rohilkund) ;
- (b) the number of employees of a State Railway in receipt of company's scale of pay ;
- (c) the number of employees of the East Indian Railway Company in receipt of State Railway's scale of pay ;
- (d) whether an employee of a State Railway is permitted to adopt the privileges, rights and concessions of an employee of a company railway ; if so, the Fundamental Rule ;
- (e) the number of employees of the East Indian Railway Company in receipt of company's scale of pay, serving on Oudh and Rohilkhand section ;
- (f) the number of employees of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway in receipt of State Railway's scale of pay serving on the East Indian Railway Company's section ; and
- (g) the number of employees of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway in receipt of East Indian Railway Company's scale of pay serving on the Oudh and Rohilkhand section of the East Indian Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (d). I have explained the position in full in the reply to question No. 746 which I laid on the table of the House on the 19th July.

(b), (c), (e), (f) and (g). The information is not readily available and Government do not consider that the time and labour involved in collecting it is likely to be justified by results.

NON-RECOGNITION OF SERVICES RENDERED DURING THE GREAT WAR BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

870. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : (a) With reference to the information laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 458, asked on the 13th March, 1934, will Government please state whether the Home Department Resolutions Nos. 1099 and 2165, dated the 8th August, 1919, and the 15th September, 1921, respectively, operate on State Railways, including the Oudh and Rohilkund section of the East Indian Railway ? If not, why not ?

(b) Is the action taken on cases of non-railway employees, who rendered war services, by the officers of the late Oudh and Rohilkund Railway still operative? If not, why not?

(c) What are the reasons and the circumstances under which the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway under letter No. E. T./4/31/A. S. M. of the 10th December, 1931, abrogated the orders passed by the District Traffic Superintendent, Moradabad, Oudh and Rohilkund Railway on the 23rd August, 1923, in which as a special case a link was given to previous services rendered in War as a non-railway employee?

(d) Do Government propose to rectify the hardship? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course

POSTING OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE DELHI-AMBALA-KALKA RAILWAY TO THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

871. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur :** Is it a fact that Government informed this House, in reply to starred question No. 455 asked on the 13th March, 1934, regarding posting of the personnel of the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Railway to the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway, that the staff were transferred to the Moradabad Division, because that was the division nearest to the section on which they were formerly employed? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) whether the reply is based on any inquiry made or on the personal knowledge of the officer in power ;
- (b) whether the section on which they were formerly employed was a part of the East Indian Railway Company ;
- (c) whether there was a division named Delhi Division under the East Indian Railway Company ;
- (d) whether the section on which they were formerly employed was under the jurisdiction of the said Delhi Division ;
- (e) whether on re-organization the said Delhi Division was disbanded and in its place Allahabad Division was created ;
- (f) whether the staff of the Delhi Division was transferred to the Allahabad Division ;
- (g) whether Allahabad Division under re-organization was governed by the East Indian Railway Company ;
- (h) whether they were governed by the East Indian Railway Company on the section on which they were formerly employed ;
- (i) whether Allahabad is nearest to the section or Moradabad ?
- (j) whether they still are in receipt of East Indian Railway Company's scale of pay and allowances ;
- (k) whether the office staff of Moradabad Division is in possession of the working of the East Indian Railway Company Rules ;

- (l) whether the office staff of Allahabad Division is in possession of Oudh and Rohilkund State Railway Rules ;
- (m) whether the company staff of the East Indian Railway is in a majority in the Allahabad Division ;
- (n) whether the company staff of the East Indian Railway is in a minority in the Moradabad Division ;
- (o) whether there is a difference between the company's scales of pay and the State railway's scales of pay ; and
- (p) if so, whether Government now propose to transfer the company staff attached to the Moradabad and the Lucknow Divisions to the Allahabad Division ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) As regards the first part of the question my Honourable friend has apparently overlooked the fact that I stated that I had no information as to the reasons but that the explanation that Moradabad was the nearest Division was a possible explanation. It was clearly stated that this was not based on enquiries.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d), (e), (f) and (g). No. The Divisional System was introduced after the East Indian Railway was taken over by the State.

(h) The question is not understood.

(i) If by section the Honourable Member means the Delhi-Kalka Section, Moradabad is nearer than Allahabad.

(j), (m) and (n). Government have no information.

(k) and (l). Government have no reason to believe that office staff, attached to any Division of the East Indian Railway, do not know whatever rules they are required to know for carrying on their duties.

(o) Yes.

(p) No.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Did Government inquire about (j), (m) and (n), and was it after inquiries that they could not get any information about them ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No. Sir ; they made no inquiries.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government please state whether it was very difficult to make inquiries about (j) ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Part (j) was not very difficult, Sir, but (m) and (n) would be difficult.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state why they made no inquiries about (j) if it was not very difficult ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend wants the information particularly, I have no objection to get it for him.

EXAMINATIONS FOR REFRESHER COURSE IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

872 ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 452 of the 13th March, 1934, laid on the table of this House on the

19th July, 1934, regarding examinations for Refresher Courses in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway, will Government state :

- (a) the notification and its number and date under which the Chief Operating Superintendent is vested with the powers to prescribe a test and over-rule the provisions of Rule 29 of the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways ;
- (b) the number and date of the sanction accorded by the Agent in term of clause 2 of his Circular No. 548[A.E.-2460 of the 1st October, 1932 ;
- (c) the reason why this particular branch on the East Indian Railway is required to pass triennial tests ;
- (d) the reason why the commercial group is administered by the Head of the Transportation Department ;
- (e) whether the staff of the Transportation Group is required to pass any triennial tests ; if not, why not ;
- (f) how many tests the Chief Operating Superintendent has passed in order to acquaint himself with the current rules and regulations ; if none, why not ;
- (g) whether the opinions of local administrations were invited before the promulgation of the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff ; if so, the opinion expressed by the East Indian Railway Administration on Rule 29 ; and whether they are prepared to lay on the table the opinions received from the local administrations ; if not, why not ;
- (h) the penalty, if any, prescribed for failure to pass this triennial tests ;
- (i) whether such penalties are prescribed for other branches also and for failure to pass a Refresher Course ; if not, why not ;
- (j) the reason for making discriminations amongst the classes of the same group of employees by the Chief Operating Superintendent ;
- (k) whether the Railway Board have agreed to the triennial tests ; if so, when the amendment to Rule 29 was issued by them, and whether they are prepared to lay a copy of the amendment on the table of this House ; if not, why not ;
- (l) whether Government are aware of the extent of discontentment caused amongst the staff ; and
- (m) the date and number of the notification under which the Agent, in exercising his powers under rule 64, amended the provisions of Rule 29, and whether they are prepared to lay a copy of the notification on the table of this House ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a), (b) and (k). The reply is contained in the reply laid on the table of the House to question No. 452 and I would invite my Honourable friend to read it again.

(c), (d), (e), (h), (i) and (j). Government have no information. These are matters of detail which have deliberately been left by Government to the Agent of the Railway to decide and Government are not prepared to interfere.

(f) The question is not understood.

(g) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, Government regret that they are not prepared to lay on the table of the House the opinion expressed by a Railway administration.

(l) No.

(m) No, as Government do not consider it necessary.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent of Moradabad is permitted to frame its own rules as distinct from the rules which are prevalent in the remaining five Divisions of the East Indian Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Divisional Superintendent is permitted to frame rules to the extent the Agent has delegated powers to him.

PERSONNEL OF THE CREW SYSTEM ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

873. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that Government informed this House on the 19th July, 1934, in reply to starred question No. 459, asked on the 13th March, 1934, that the personnel of the crew system on the East Indian Railway were temporary ? If so, will Government please state :

- (a) the manner, authority, rule and regulation under which the personnel of a temporary system having no lien on any substantive permanent appointment, should be classified as senior to those who hold substantively permanent posts with longer service ;
- (b) the pay offered to the crew staff on the 1st June, 1931 ;
- (c) the difference in seniority between the substantive permanent staff and the temporary staff ;
- (d) the Fundamental Rule or Article of the Civil Service Regulation under which a man of temporary service, on abolition of a temporary system, can be brought on a common seniority list with those with permanent service on abolition of a permanent system ;
- (e) whether Government propose to rectify the anomaly ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part—

(a) and (d). The question of determining seniority is an administrative question and is not regulated by the Fundamental Rules or the Civil Service Regulations.

(b) and (c). The temporary staff referred to numbers several hundreds and Government do not consider that the compilation of the information asked for will be justified by results.

I have, however, forwarded the question to the Agent of the East Indian Railway to examine the allegations contained in order to remove any legitimate grievances the staff might be suffering under.

(e) Does not arise.

PERSONNEL OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

874. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : (a) Have Government already selected the personnel of the Indian delegation to the League of Nations ?

(b) Do Government contemplate including a representative of the Indian States ? If so, will the tax-payers of British India pay his expenses ?

(c) What is the estimate of the expenses of the delegation ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) Yes ; the composition of the Delegation was announced on the 3rd July in a Press Communiqué, a copy of which is available in the Library.

(b) One member of the delegation, all members of which represent India as a whole, was selected from an Indian State. All expenses in connection with the delegation will be defrayed from British Indian revenues.

(c) The Budget estimate was rupees fourteen thousand nine hundred, but savings, resulting from the fact that the majority of the delegates were already in Europe at the time of their selection, are likely to reduce the actual expenditure to approximately rupees two thousand five hundred.

Mr. F. E. James : Do I understand that the answer is that the Indian delegation to the League of Nations represents for international purposes the whole of India, but that the expenses of the delegation are provided by British India ? If the answer is in the affirmative, have the Government of India made any request to the Indian States that they should contribute towards the expenses of the delegation which represents them as well as British India ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : No such representation has been made.

Mr. F. E. James : May I know whether the answer to my first question is in the affirmative ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I think that has been already answered—I said “one member of the delegation, all members of which represent India as a whole”.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government please explain the reason why they do not ask the Chamber of Princes or any representative body of the Indian princes to contribute their share of this expenditure ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : There may be various reasons : but they represent India as a whole, and I am sure my friend would not like to pay the States a portion of the customs because some foreign goods reach the States.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that they do derive much benefit by being protected against outside attack, and, even in times of internal disturbance, assistance is rendered to them from British India and that this customs duty is not merely a favour to British India ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that the customs duty does not pay even the entire expenses of the military, is it not desirable that we should ask the Indian States to pay their share of the expenses ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : As regards payment by the States, I may inform my Honourable friend that a specific question has been put—No. 932—directed to find out why the States are not paying and why they should not pay, and I think it will be more convenient if my Honourable friends will see their way to agree to wait till question No. 932 is answered.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know if in view of the fact that the League of Nations has been reduced almost to impotence by the withdrawal of certain important powers, is it any good for the Government of India to go on sending their delegation ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I have no information as to whether the League has been reduced to impotence or not.

Sardar Sant Singh : Has not my Honourable friend read that the League of Nations could not do anything in the case of the Japanese withdrawal from the League ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Each one is entitled to have his own opinion.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED BY GOVERNMENT FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS OR THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

875. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the publications received by them from the League of Nations or the International Labour Office ?

(b) Will Government please give a copy of the publications to the Members of this House, who like to read them ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) and (b). I have already explained, in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 505 asked on the 9th of August, that Government receive only such number of copies of League of Nations publications as are required for official use. The same is true of International Labour Office publications. Consequently, Government are not ordinarily in a position either to lay copies on the table or to give copies to individual Members of this House. I will, however, consider the possibility of obtaining a suitable increase in the number of copies supplied to Government and, if possible, will cause one copy of each publication to be placed in the Library for the use of Members. The publications received from the League in the course of a single year, excluding publications of the International Labour Office, run to some 15,000 printed pages, and, in these circumstances, the Honourable Member will, I trust, agree, that it would be impracticable to reproduce the publications in the official debates, while, if they were not so reproduced, no purpose would be served by laying them on the table.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The intention of this question was not to reprint it in the proceedings of the House, but merely that it might be available for Members so that they may read them.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I think my Honourable friend will agree that I have answered that part of the question as I am trying to get copies made available to Members of the House.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : As regards publications received in the past also ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Will my Honourable friend not be satisfied with 15,000 pages of one and about 20,000 pages of another ? 35,000 pages will take even Dr. Ziauddin some time to read.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that I am not expected to read all the books and all the pages and that we can have division of labour, I wanted to make sure that all the pages would be read by some one or other.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I have promised to look into the matter : I have not made up my mind yet.

APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT DELEGATE AT GENEVA.

876. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a permanent delegate at Geneva as recommended by the Indian delegation headed by Sir B. L. Mitter ?

(b) Was the financial aspect of the proposal considered by Government ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) I have already informed the Honourable Member in my reply to his question No. 504 on the 9th August, 1934, that the recommendation is actually under consideration.

(b) The financial aspect of the proposal has been and will continue to be borne in mind.

†877*.

†878*.

SUPPLY OF THE FACTORIES ACT AND THE RULES FRAMED THEREUNDER TO THE FACTORIES.

879. ***Mr. G. Morgan :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the full report of the judgment in Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, Bengal *versus* H. E. Watson, XXXVIII C. W. ?

(b) Has the attention of Government also been drawn to the following comment on the case by the Editor of the current issue of the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* :

“ The facts on the present case were ugly for the Government's officers in all conscience. It appeared that the accused had informed the Factory Inspectorate how they understood the Act and asked for an opinion as to whether they were right.

†This question will be answered on the 30th August, 1934.

No reply was vouchsafed. It appeared further that at least on one count of the indictment the Government themselves were not sure as to what the correct law was ; as to another count it appeared that what was now complained of as a breach of the law had been sanctioned as proper compliance for a period of ten years. It appeared again that the rules, of which infringement was complained of, were not available. Yet, when the accused asked for directions as to the requirements of the law, the Department did not even acknowledge receipt of the enquiry but replied by launching a prosecution. It was equivalent to saying : ' We won't tell you what the law is and indeed we are not sure that we know it ourselves but we are hauling you up before a Criminal Court, and you will have from there what you want '. This is not the spirit in which the Act should be worked " ?

(c) Are Government aware that McNair J. was informed during the proceedings that both the Act and the Rules framed under it were out of print and could not be obtained even by a Factory which is governed by its provisions ?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following comment of McNair J. :

" It should not be forgotten, " said McNair, J., " that the Act is sanctioning interference with the ordinary rights of the citizen and that the inquisitorial powers which are given should be used with tact and circumspection—a law which is enacted for the benefit of the employee should not be used merely for the purpose of harassing the employer. It is difficult to believe that these principles were present in the minds of the authorities who were responsible for this prosecution."

(e) Do Government propose to take steps to make available to all Factories governed by the provisions of the Factories Act both the Act and the Rules framed under it ?

(f) Do Government propose to take steps to safeguard employers from harassment by Factory Inspectors and Local Governments acting under the provisions of the Factories Acts ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a)—(d). Yes.

(e) I have already had enquiries made as to the alleged shortage of copies of the Act, and will see that copies are available for sale to the public. The Local Government have doubtless taken similar action as regards their own rules.

(f) The administration of the Act is a matter for the Local Government but the Government of India have powers of direction, supervision and control which they will exercise should occasion arise for their doing so.

Mr. F. E. James : May I ask whether the Government of India have called for a report from the Local Government in this matter, and, if not, whether they will do so ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : That is being done.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether, in view of the strictures that have been passed, the Government of India have issued orders with regard to that part of the Factories Act which gives such administrative and interfering liberties to Inspectors ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I have already explained in reply to Mr. James' supplementary question that the Government of India are asking the Local Government for a report on the facts of the case.

**OPINIONS OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON THE RESOLUTION re
CATERING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS.**

880. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Have the Railway Board sent the copies of the proceedings of this House on the Resolution about vendors and refreshment rooms to the local advisory committees ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to specify a date by which the opinions of the local advisory committees may be submitted to the Railway Board ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) Government are asking the railways to make every endeavour to send a report containing the opinions of Local Advisory Committees by the end of January, 1935.

**GIVING OF CONTRACTS OF DIFFERENT STATIONS TO ONE INDIVIDUAL ON THE
EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

881. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : (a) Is it not the practice on the East Indian Railway and specially in the Dinapore Division that the monopoly of the sale of all articles is given to one individual ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the travelling public has made repeated complaints against the system of monopoly ?

(c) Have the Railway Board seen the representation made to the Agent, East Indian Railway, requesting him not to give the contracts of different stations to one individual ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The Agent, East Indian Railway, states that the arrangement decided on which the Local Advisory Committee agreed should be given a fair trial is that there should be separate Hindu and Muhammadan contractors and that each contract should be for all sales at a large station and to include an area of from about 25 to 30 miles from that station. In the case of the Dinapore Division, as it was found impracticable to adhere to the area limits, two areas were given to one man, the Division having originally been divided into four areas.

(b) Government have received no complaints from the travelling public, except in so far as references have been made in this House to one or other of the aspects of this question.

(c) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask the Honourable Member whether the Advisory Committee will consider these complaints as well along with the other complaints when the question comes up before them ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have no objection to ask the Agent to place these before them.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY JIRGA SYSTEM.

882. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did the Legislative Department of the Government of India give their approval to the administration of justice by Jirga system where no proceedings are allowed, no appeal is permissible and no Vakil is permitted to represent the accused ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The Jirga system as at present administered derives its authority from the Frontier Crimes Regulation, 1901, which was approved by the Governor General in Council.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Did the Legislative Department of the Government of India approve of this ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shammukham Chetty) : The Government of India have approved of it, which is a higher authority than the Legislative Department.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask what is the meaning of the Government of India ? Does it mean the Foreign Secretary or the Law Member ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The Governor General in Council. You, Sir, have pointed out the distinction between the Governor General in Council and the various Departments of the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Honourable Member tell me whether that *jirga* system specifically provides that no vakils should be allowed ? My information is that it does not do so. Will the Government make a rule on the point ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The Regulation does not provide that legal representatives should not appear, but the position is that there is no rule or law under which legal representatives can appear in the Courts of Deputy Commissioners acting under the Frontier Crimes Regulation. There are rules under which they can appear in Criminal and Civil Courts.

BUILDINGS OF THE PUSA RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

883. ***Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) the number, extent and nature of the buildings now in use for the Pusa Research Institute, and

(ii) their original capital cost, together with the cost of such additions or alterations as may have been made from time to time ?

(b) What do Government propose to do with the buildings after the transfer of the Institute from Pusa ?

(c) Do they intend to sell them to the Bihar and Orissa Government or to a private individual or concern ? If so, at what price and under what conditions ?

(d) In case the buildings are sold to a private concern or individual, will the price of the lands be included in it ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b), (c) and (d). I would invite my Honourable friend's attention to the answer given to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 815 on the 22nd of August.

Statement regarding Pusa Buildings laid on the table.

Nature of buildings.	Extent (plinth area in sq. ft.).
I. Laboratories—	
(i) Phipps Laboratories, Main, double storeyed (37,133×2 sq. ft.)	1 74,266
(ii) Other Laboratories	9 15,898
	<hr/> 90,164
II. General Administration, Offices, Hostel, Rest Houses, etc. ..	12 86,979
III. Godowns, Stables, Byres, sheds, etc.	68 114,347
IV. Residential—	
(i) Bungalows for Class I Officers	13 109,533
(ii) Class II Officers' Quarters	6 21,670
(iii) Subordinate Staff Quarters	125 152,051
(iv) Menials' Quarters	94 31,622
Cost of buildings (original capital cost <i>plus</i> subsequent additions and alterations, if any):—	Rs.
(i) Buildings in charge of Public Works Department ..	16,66,480
(ii) Departmental Buildings	4,02,584
Total	<hr/> 20,69,064

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know the total amount of money which has been sunk into the Pusa Research Institute since its establishment ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think we have sunk any money into it. (Laughter.) My Honourable friend probably wants to know how much money has been spent upon it. The question relates to expenditure upon buildings and the answer given in the statement is Rs. 20 lakhs.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I wanted to know what amount of money has been spent, if that word is preferable to my Honourable friend, not only upon the buildings, but upon the research in the fields or in the laboratory, which has been conducted in this Institute since its establishment ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend wishes to know, as far as I can make out, not only the capital expenditure, but also the recurring expenditure since the date of the inception of the Institute till the present day. Part 2 of the question relates only to capital cost, which is the cost

of the buildings, and I have given that. As regards the recurring expenditure incurred from that date up to the present, I am afraid I have no information.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state how many acres of land they have for the Pusa Research Institute ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Roughly, 1,650 acres, of which 1,300 acres odd are held on a perpetual lease and 200 odd were acquired under the Land Acquisition Act.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : Why was Pusa specially chosen for the Institute ? Did any experts advise on it ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Government of India did not have very many experts available at the time, but they had a Committee to go into the matter in 1904, which advised that Pusa would be a suitable site.

CERTAIN POLITICAL DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS.

884. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the appointments of the Assistant Secretaries to the Residents in Hyderabad and Mysore, the Extra Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir, and the Superintendent of the Office of His Majesty's Minister, Nepal, are borne on the cadre of the Foreign and Political Department Secretariat ?

(b) Is it also a fact that ever since these appointments were created, they have been held by Anglo-Indians or Europeans ?

(c) Are Government aware that this bar against non-Anglo-Indians and Europeans to hold these appointments causes uncalled for and unjustified supersessions in the establishment of the Foreign and Political Department Secretariat ?

(d) If so, are Government prepared to fill these appointments in strict accordance with the seniority, unless there is anything expressed against any member of the establishment who are otherwise eligible to hold these appointments ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no bar against the appointment of Indians to these posts, which are filled by selection and to suit the local conditions.

(d) No. These are selection posts and it would not be in the public interest to fill them in strict accordance with seniority.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Will the Honourable Member tell me what is the proportion of Anglo-Indians to Indians in the Foreign and Political Department ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : I could not possibly give that information without notice.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Is it not a fact that there is a general preponderance of Anglo-Indians in this Department ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : I am not prepared to admit that. If Anglo-Indians as opposed to Indians—it is certainly not the case.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Is it not a fact that Indians are generally discouraged from entering this Department ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : In which Department ?

Mr. S. G. Jog : The Foreign and Political Department.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : No. I deny that completely.

**COST OF THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF HIS MAJESTY'S
MINISTER AT KABUL.**

885. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government kindly state who bears the cost of the clerical establishment of the office of His Majesty's Minister at Kabul ?

(b) Is it a fact that half of this expenditure is borne by British India ? If so, how is it that Indians have never been appointed to the posts of Superintendent or the seniormost clerks in this office ?

(d) When is this going to be done ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) and (b). The whole of the cost of the clerical establishment of the Legation in Kabul is borne by the Government of India.

Indians have not hitherto been appointed to the posts of Superintendent or second and third clerk because no suitable candidates have been forthcoming.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it really the case of the Government of India that no suitable Indians are available even to hold the posts of clerks in this Legation ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : What I stated was that at the time these appointments had to be filled, no Indians were available who were suitable. That is a fact.

Sardar Sant Singh : What is the strength of the office of the Legation ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The strength, as far as I remember, is about eight or nine, or may not be as much. I could not tell you exactly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Was the question of dividing the total expense of the Kabul Legation between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India ever considered ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : I do not know exactly what the Honourable Member means by "considered". It has been thought of from time to time and possibly some Members of the House will remember a reply given by my predecessor, Sir Denys Bray, in 1925 on this subject, the relevant portion of which was as follows :

"Until recently Afghanistan was in relations with the Government of India only and the cost of representation at Kabul was naturally met from Indian revenues." *(I may say that the cost then was a very great deal more than it is at present.)* "Although diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Great Britain have now been established, no revision of the incidence of expenditure has been considered necessary as India is as vitally interested as before."

That was stated in 1925, and there is no reason to modify that statement at present.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Was any representation made by the Government of India on this subject to His Majesty's Government ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : So far as I remember, no representation has been made.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is it not a fact that the cost of the British Legation in Persia is divided between India and His Majesty's Government half and half ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : That, Sir, is a fact.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Would the Honourable Member consider the desirability of making representations to His Majesty's Government to the effect that a similar division might be made with regard to the expenditure incurred by the Legation in Kabul ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The matter can certainly be considered.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Was any recommendation made by the General Purposes Retrenchment Committee about the division of the expenditure on the Kabul Legation ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : I think there was a recommendation made by the Committee to which the Honourable Member refers.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Was that ever taken into consideration at all ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : It was certainly most carefully considered.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : And rejected most carefully ! (Laughter.)

Sir Abdur Rahim : Was it equally carefully rejected ? (Laughter.)

(No answer.)

NON-APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS TO THE POSTS OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE OFFICE OF THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, PUNJAB STATES, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN WAZIRISTAN.

886. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Is it a fact that the post of the Registrar of the office of the Agent to the Governor General, Punjab States, and that of the Superintendent of the office of the Resident in Waziristan, are also not filled by Indians ? If so, why not ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : Both appointments referred to are at present held by Europeans. At the time they were filled, no Indians of sufficient seniority and experience were available.

SUBORDINATE OFFICES OF THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT IN WHICH INDIANS HAVE NEVER BEEN APPOINTED.

887. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Will Government kindly let this House know in which other clerical appointments in the offices subordinate to the Foreign and Political Department, Indians have never been appointed, and why not ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by "other clerical appointments" and Government are not, therefore, in a position to supply the information asked for.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that the policy is to exclude Indians generally from the higher appointments in the Foreign and Political Department ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : It is certainly not their policy, and I can give several instances in which Indians have been appointed to the highest clerical appointments.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know whether all these appointments are made by some test through the Public Service Commission ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : No, they are not made by the Public Service Commission. The higher clerical appointments are made by promotion inside the Department.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know why the Government are not prepared to submit all these appointments to the Public Service Commission ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : Mainly because the Public Service Commission would not be in a position to judge of the qualifications for particular appointments.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Has not the Foreign and Political Department any confidence in the Public Service Commission test ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : It has every confidence in the Public Service Commission test, which is, I understand, an initial test, and not a test for promotion inside the service.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. If the House agrees, the remaining questions on the order paper will be taken up on Thursday morning, because tomorrow we meet only in the afternoon for the transaction of business.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, the following Message has been received from the Council of State :

“ I am directed to inform you that the Council of State has, at its meeting held on the 27th August, 1934, agreed without any amendments to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 20th August, 1934, namely,

1. A Bill to provide for the control of the export from and import into India of rubber and for the control of the extension of the cultivation of rubber in British India ; and

2. A Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for a certain purpose.”

THE INDIAN ARMY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the Indian Army (Amendment) Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Leader of the House) : Before the debate proceeds further, I desire to make clear to the House the position of Government with regard to the Bill and also with regard to the amendment moved by Sir Abdur Rahim.

In framing this Bill, Government have followed out the policy, which they announced in July, 1932, in connection with the opening of the Indian Military Academy, of introducing "certain changes of organisation which are implicit in the evolution of a purely Indian Army, and which will bring it more into line with the conditions prevailing in other parts of the Empire". In accordance with this policy, they have proposed that the Indian Commissioned officer passing out of the Academy shall be granted a commission on the Dominion model in His Majesty's Indian Land Forces and shall be subject to an Indian Army Act as a first step towards bringing the whole Indian Army, officers and men alike, under an Indian statute.

Government have consistently maintained that an Indian Army Act, which, besides providing for the legal status of the Indian officers of the Indian Army, deals only with discipline and kindred subjects, is no place for provisions governing command, rank and precedence, which ordinarily find a place in the King's Regulations for the army. They therefore confined themselves to giving a guarantee in connection with the present Bill that provision would be made in those Regulations for complete reciprocity of powers and privileges within the Indian Army as between the Indian commissioned officers and the British officers of the Indian Army. They made it plain that on the analogy of the Dominion Armies which they were following, it was impossible for the Indian commissioned officer, any more than the Dominion officer, to be granted automatic powers of command in relation to British personnel of the British Army in India, but that His Majesty's Government were preparing a further regulation which would enable the Commander-in-Chief or other commander to appoint the occasions when in the interests of the harmonious working of the two portions of the Army in India the Indian commissioned officer may exercise powers of command in relation to British personnel of the British Army. His Majesty's Government in doing so have conceded to future Indian officers in the Indian Army more than they have conceded to any officer holding a Dominion Commission.

In consequence of the suggestions made in the House that a statutory provision should be substituted for the verbal assurance which had been given on behalf of Government regarding the command, rank and precedence of the Indian commissioned officers, the Government of India enquired of His Majesty's Government whether there was any objection to the inclusion in the Bill of a section on the lines of the amendment proposed by Sir Abdur Rahim, but limited in scope to the regulation of these matters *within the Indian Army*. His Majesty's Government have replied that it is impossible to accept such a proposal, because the question at issue is one of His Majesty's prerogative. They stated, however, that the exact method of giving effect to the guarantee regarding command, rank and precedence within the Indian Army, which is not free from legal difficulties, was still under the consideration of the Law Officers of the Crown.

In view of this reply, Government are unable to accept any amendment involving the inclusion in the Bill of any provision dealing with command, rank and precedence. Consequently, they must oppose Sir Abdur Rahim's amendment alike in its existing form and in the form which would be given to it by the adoption of Mr. Ranga Iyer's amendment; and if that amendment is carried against them in either form,

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

they will be reluctantly constrained to drop the Bill with the result that the Indian officers who will shortly be commissioned from the Indian Military Academy will have to be given some form of limited commission which will make them subject in all respects to the Army Act and to control by Parliament instead of being subject, as they will be if Sir Abdur Rahim's amendment is withdrawn or rejected and the Bill becomes law, to the Indian Army Act and to control by the Indian Legislature. This result would in the opinion of the Government of India be most unfortunate.

The object of Mr. Ranga Iyer's amendment will in fact be secured by a King's Regulation to be made under section 71 of the Army Act, or by such other method as may be decided on by His Majesty's Government in consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : In the light of the statement made by the Leader of the House, it would probably clarify the issue if the Honourable Member, Sir Abdur Rahim, would tell the House what he proposes to do with his amendment.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : In view of the importance of the statement which has been made by the Government, which in reality opens a new issue and is not confined to the issue which was raised by Sir Abdur Rahim, there should be a debate on the statement which has been made by the Honourable the Leader of the House. It will not clarify matters unless we know the real implications which that statement has got behind it. They ought to be explained to the House, how far it goes, what privileges the Indians are enjoying today and what are being taken away by the statement which the Honourable Member has made today. That must be explained to the House before any votes are taken on the issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : In what language does the Honourable Member want the statement of the Leader of the House to be explained ?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : The language is there. We want to know the implications of the statement which he has made. We want to know how far the Government is prepared to go, how far they are taking away from Indians their existing rights. That matter must be explained. The Honourable Member says the same concession is being given, which is enjoyed by the Dominions. That matter has to be explained, whether it gives the same rights as in the Dominions or it does not....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order. order. Sir Abdur Rahim.

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : May I say, Sir, with regard to the statement made by my friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, that I believe that what he is really anxious about is that he should get a chance to say something on the statement that has been read out by the Honourable the Leader of the House. Now, as regards the statement that has been just read, may I ask my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, this question ? Does that statement make the position of the Indian Commissioned Officers any clearer than the statement made by the Army Secretary in the Select Committee and which is

now embodied in the Report of that Select Committee? (Hear, hear.) For instance, as regards the mixed formations, like Brigades and Divisions, and ordinary mixed formations, that is to say, of British and Indian personnel, will the power of command and rank and precedence of the Indian Commissioned Officers who will be created be the same as of those officers who have passed out from Sandhurst and Woolwich, whether British or Indian? That is really the crucial question that we have got to deal with. I want to know what is the position as regards mixed formations.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : That position has been made clear on more than one occasion, and I think the position is perfectly clear from the statement which I have made.

Sir Abdur Rahim : What is that?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : The position will be entirely different.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : Sir, as the Government have taken so much time to consider the amendment put forward from this side of the House, then should we also not have further time to carefully study this statement before we can proceed in the matter?

Sir Abdur Rahim : That being so, I do not know whether it would be open to me to say anything, as regards the merits of this statement and how it affects our position.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Ordinarily, Sir Abdur Rahim and the other Honourable Members who took part in the debate on this amendment have lost the right of speaking again, but in view of the importance of the statement made by the Leader of the House, the Chair is prepared to allow the Honourable Member, Sir Abdur Rahim, and the other Honourable Members who previously took part in the debate to have another opportunity of speaking on the motion. (Loud Applause.)

Sir Abdur Rahim : Sir, we are extremely obliged to you for the indulgence you have given us, having regard to the importance of the subject, if I may say so with great respect, you have rightly given us this further opportunity of speaking. Sir, the position remains absolutely unaltered. The position still is as it was when the Bill was introduced, or rather when it was reported upon by the Select Committee embodying the position taken up by the Army Secretary, I take it upon the instructions of the Army Authorities; that is to say, the commissions that will be given to the Indian Officers who have passed out from Dehra Dun will be of a limited character and will not have the same scope as that which is given to officers who have graduated from Sandhurst or Woolwich. Therefore, it comes to this that Indian officers, so far as the military services are concerned, will not have that power of command, rank and precedence which they are entitled to look forward to so far as the Indian Army is concerned. We have been so told in explicit words.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair thinks, from what it understood from the statement of the Leader of the House, that the powers and privileges in question will depend not on the place where the cadet was trained, but whether he gets an Indian Commission or the King's Commission. Is it not so?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, the position is that the command, rank and precedence in question will depend upon the regulations that will be issued under section 71 of the Army Act. There are no regulations which at present govern this class of officer because it is not yet in existence.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The difference is between the King's Commission and the new Commission that is going to be created ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Yes, Sir.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Then, what is the justification for this ? That has not been explained, except perhaps my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, suggests that the prerogative of His Majesty will be affected by such a provision. But, Sir, we made our position quite clear on the previous occasion,—that if the Army Authorities were prepared to give us an assurance that the regulation that will be framed by His Majesty or under His Majesty's direction would recognize complete reciprocity and equality of status of the Indian Commissioned Officers with those of the King's Commissioned Officers, then I was prepared to drop the amendment that I have proposed. (Hear, hear.) But, that is not the attitude taken up by the Government. They will, it is clear, by the regulations which will be issued afterwards, make a very important distinction between Indian Commissioned Officers and King's Commissioned Officers ; in other words, the commission which will be given to them will be of a limited character and scope as compared with the King's commission which the men from Sandhurst and Woolwich enjoy. Now, the position is this. I asked the Army Secretary on a previous occasion to tell us whether it was ever suggested at the time this College was mooted and when it was actually established, that the commission which the graduates of the Dehra Dun Academy will receive will be in any way inferior to the commission which Indian or British Officers educated and trained at Sandhurst or Woolwich receive. Sir, I received no answer to that question then and I take it there is no answer available at present. Then, what is the position ? We were kept under the impression throughout, from the Round Table Conference days to the date when the College was established and up till now, that those who have graduated from Dehra Dun would have the same status and the same opportunities for command, rank and precedence as the British commissioned officers.....

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I should like, Sir, to quote the Press Communiqué, dated the 8th July, 1932, to which the Honourable the Leader of the House referred just now. In it, it was definitely and clearly stated that :

“ It has, therefore, been decided, with the approval of His Majesty the King, to confer upon cadets passing out from the Indian Military Academy, and also upon entrants to the Indian Air Force, commissions in His Majesty's Indian Land Forces and His Majesty's Indian Air Force, respectively, in a similar form, for instance, to those now granted to officers of the Canadian Forces. Those commissions will be issued in the name of His Majesty the King Emperor, and will be signed on His Majesty's behalf by the Governor General.”

Sir Abdur Rahim : Is not there a considerable difference in the situation of India and that of the Dominions ? There are no such things as mixed formations in the Dominions. If there are, I should like to be

corrected at once. As you have mixed formations here and I take it that it is the policy of the military authorities to have such formations, I say the position becomes entirely different and we cannot accept an arrangement under which our officers from Dehra Dun will be debarred from commanding mixed formations.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : May I say, Sir, that the new type of officers are not yet in existence, but that the question of the command of mixed formations, even if this Bill were to pass into law today, is not likely to arise for another 20 or 25 years.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Is that the only answer ? All the higher commands are of mixed formations and the result will be this that so far as the Indian officers are concerned, they will not automatically command these mixed formations as the other officers do. If that is so, what is the chance of India ever becoming self-reliant in respect of her army, because, after all, it is the higher commands that count the most in the army. If our youngmen are told that however meritorious they may be, however competent they may be, however successfully they may have passed through all the severe tests of military training, they can never expect, unless occasions are specially appointed for the purpose, to have command in any of the higher formations of the Indian army. Does the Government really think that India is going to accept a position like this ? Surely not. Can my Honourable friend point out that hitherto in the history of British India there has been any such attempt made to make racial discrimination ? We have the Indian Civil Service. At one time it was entirely manned by the British and it is the Indian Civil Service that really governs the country. Was any such racial discrimination ever thought of in the case of the Indian Civil Service ? On the other hand, we have the Government of India Act which provides that there are certain higher offices which will be held by the members of the Indian Civil Service and no suggestion whatever is made anywhere that the Indian Members of the Indian Civil Service will be debarred from, or will have less opportunity of, reaching those higher offices than the British members of this service. What is the position in the case of the Indian Civil Service ? The Leader of the House is an Indian and there have been Governors who have been Indians. Why in the army of all services should there be such a distinction ? My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, will realise more vividly than perhaps any other Member of this House that to draw a racial discrimination in the army will be nothing short of a disaster. Sir, it is a policy which surely the military authorities, the Government of India or the Army Council in England and the British Government, can never expect us to accept. They may force down this Bill on us or they may take up any position they like, but I do say, with the fullest sense of responsibility, that a policy of this character will never satisfy Indians and it will create all sorts of difficulties in the army itself. We, the Indians, want that so far as the military forces are concerned there should be perfect discipline, unquestioned discipline and that it should be a force of which India should be proud, and we further want that there should be complete co-operation and reciprocity between the Indian army and the British forces so long as the British forces are in India.

Now, Sir, I do ask : Is it wise or expedient even from the narrow point of view of any military class that a distinction should be drawn

[Sir Abdur Rahim.]

by regulations or otherwise between the two classes of officers? If the Indian army is going to be Indianised, as has been repeatedly promised, in that case, can the army authorities contemplate with any complacency a future when there should not be complete reciprocity and co-operation between the two forces—the Indian forces and the British forces—in India? Sir, it is unfortunate that the Government of India, under instructions from Whitehall, should have been obliged to take up this attitude. I doubt if the Government of India, left to themselves, could have ever thought of taking up this attitude. We are now threatened that the Bill will be dropped if this amendment is carried and the Dehra Dun officers will be given a limited Commission. We are not told what the term of that limited Commission will be. I said to this House that what was really intended by the Army Authorities, as we understood their case from the Army Secretary, was that there should be a Commission intermediate between the King's Commission and the Viceroy's Commission. If that is not the intention, I do not see what objection can there be to accepting this amendment. It makes no difference to us that by this Bill we want to amend the Indian Army Act which is mainly designed for the discipline of the Indian army personnel. You are creating by this Bill—at any rate, you are recognising by this Bill—a new form of Commission, the Indian Commission. You call it Dominion Commission. But we are not going to be deceived by words like that. We have had enough of those phrases. What is the implication of the words 'Indian Commission'? The implication is, that you are not giving the Indian officers a full career in the Indian army itself. That is the real difficulty. You are creating a new form of Commission by this Bill. Are we not fully justified in asking you that you must tell us what is the meaning, what is the scope and what is the significance of this Commission? What is wrong with that position of ours? You may bring in another Bill; we do not object to it. But you must define this Commission. All that we ask for by this amendment is that you should give to our officers the same opportunities of command, rank and precedence, as the British officers enjoy. Unless you say that you are not going to give us equal powers of command and you are not going to give us the same opportunities, I do not see what reasons you can possibly have for not accepting this amendment. Sir, supposing this Bill is dropped, I shall take up this attitude. We shall not be sorry at all for we cannot accept a status of inferiority for our officers. That is the position. It may not affect them for 20 years but that is not the point. We are asked now at this moment to accept a new principle that in that most important service, the military service, there is going to be racial discrimination and that our Indian officers, serving in the army of our own country, for purposes of defending our country, will not have the same opportunities of command as the British officers. Is this a proposition that we can accept? What is the meaning of the expression "appointing occasions"? I asked the Army Secretary to explain it but he never explained it. Can he give me a single illustration to explain its meaning or will the Honourable the Leader of the House himself tell us what is the meaning of the phrase "appointing occasions"? What does it mean? If they are unable to tell us what it means, then we are entitled to put our own interpretation, and that interpretation is, that when a question arises between an Indian

officer who is senior in rank to but equally competent as a British officer junior in rank, it will be in the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief or a Commander to say, whether in that case for that specific occasion, the Indian should have or should not have the command. That is the meaning. That only means that on some particular specific occasions the higher Army authorities may consider it advisable for perhaps a temporary purpose to give command to a senior and fully competent Indian officer. Is not that totally different from the position occupied by the British officer, for British officers, if competent and senior, automatically take command and, surely if our young men are told that they also if competent according to the higher authorities, they will not have the same chances as the others, what will be the effect of that? Are you going to encourage them to do their best by methods like this? Are you not going to discourage them in every possible way? We have heard that in the French Army for instance every soldier has in his knapsack the baton of a Field Marshal. Surely in the army it must always be so. If a man is competent to lead he ought to be given a chance of leading. We do not want to depend entirely on the goodwill of any particular commander whether our men should have the right to command or not.

Sir, what we want to know is this. What are the difficulties in the way of the Army Council or the British Council in conceding to the Indian commissioned officers the same opportunities which the British officers have? Is it because you call this commission an Indian commission? Then why call this an Indian commission? You say that the commission will be granted by His Majesty the King, and, I believe, signed by the Viceroy. Then why draw this distinction? Where is the necessity? The Army Secretary assured us with a great deal of eloquence and emphasis that the officers from Dehra Dun are extremely fine young men full of promise and that the Army Authorities are perfectly satisfied with the training they have received, and, if I mistake not, I think he suggested that the training at Dehra Dun was at least as good if not superior to the training given at Sandhurst. If that is so, why handicap these officers of whom you yourself hold such high opinion at the very commencement of their career? We fail to understand why this distinction is sought to be made. Then it has been said that "Oh! the Commission that will be given in case this Bill is dropped will be of a limited character". But how? Even if this Bill is passed you say that the commission will be of a limited character. (Hear, hear.) What difference does it make to us if the Bill is dropped. Then, at any rate, we shall be relieved of the responsibility of consenting to a situation which the whole country is bound to resent, a situation humiliating to us and humiliating to the Indian nation. On the other hand, if you pass this Bill in spite of our opposition, the responsibility will be yours, and not ours. (Applause.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, blessed are they who have no expectations, because they shall not be disappointed. I was certainly not disappointed when I heard the speech of Sir Abdur Rahim, because I knew that he would not rise equal to the new situation created by the statement made by the Leader of the House. What is that new situation which the statement that the Leader of the House made has created? That new situation, Sir, is no more and no less than this, that here we are laying the

[Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer.] foundation for the development of a *Dominion* Army. (Laughter.) I emphasise the word *Dominion*, notwithstanding opposition laughter, following as it does the proclamation of His Excellency Lord Irwin for *Dominion* Status. What has the Indian public opinion asked for up to now? Has Indian public opinion agitated for the chaff that Sir Abdur Rahim asks for (Laughter), namely, a position for Indians of rank and precedence in mixed formations or has Indian public opinion asked for the one thing to make good India's defence namely, that India must have an army of her own even as the Colonies have? That is the issue which the Opposition has to face, not fly (Laughter), fairly and squarely. That is the issue on which the House has got to vote.

Some Honourable Members : Oh ! Oh !

Mr. S. C. Ranga Iyer : Sir, the Congress people describe the British Army in India as "an army of occupation", and if the bulk of Indian opinion is to be consulted in this matter we have to take into consideration what the Congress has asked for. They do not want any association for the Indian army with the British army in India. On the contrary, they want that the British army should be withdrawn from India as the British army was withdrawn from the Colonies. Sir Abdur Rahim is preparing a slogan and wants that slogan to be put into the Army Bill, namely, that 20 years hence we should have a mixed formation of the Indian army and the British army in India. But look back 20 years. What has happened in 20 years. Look at Russia. There was the Czar of Russia. Where is the Czar of Russia today? Look at Germany. There was the Kaiser. Where is the Kaiser today? Spiders weave their webs where Kaisers ruled. (Laughter.) Look at ten years ago. Look at Spain. Where is King Alphonso today? Twenty years hence with Provincial Swaraj, Provincial Autonomy working, with liberated forces in the country, I, as a nationalist, refuse to think for a moment that there will be a British army in India. I want that the British army should be withdrawn within 20 years; and if the British army is withdrawn within these 20 years.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official) : Then God help India. (Laughter.)

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : My Honourable and gallant friend, Sir Henry Gidney, says, "Then God help India", I admit that is an observation which requires comment, and I shall comment upon it presently. Sir, as Sir Henry Gidney says, if the British army is to be withdrawn in 20 years, God must help India if India cannot help herself. I am addressing myself to the future with a certain amount of optimism. If India progresses communally there will be necessity for the British army in India and then the question will arise, why should there be a mixed formation of a Hindu or a Sikh or,—I leave the Sikhs out,—of a Hindu or a Mussalman primarily or a Sikh and a Muslim secondarily; for Punjab considerations might prevent a Sikh officer being put at the top if there is a Sikh-Muslim fight. The Indian considerations might prevent a Hindu or a Mussalman being put at the top if there is a Hindu-Muslim fight. It is for the future to decide whether we are going to advance communally or whether we are going to advance politically. If we are going to advance politically, I do not think it is a dream to say that India would have Dominion

Status within 20 years. The Dominions said farewell to the British army when they got Dominion Status. Even so, if our Provincial Autonomy works properly and if the central scheme creates more energy in the country, I do not think that it is a laughing matter to say that within 20 years India will be crowned with Dominion Status as a result of which, as in the case of the Dominions as rightly pointed out by Sir Abdur Rahim, there is no mixed formation, even so in the case of India there can be no mixed formation. But, Sir, on the contrary.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Treat it as a practical proposition.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : My Honourable friend sitting behind me ask me to treat it as a practical proposition. Quite so ; not as theoretical visionaries putting formulas into Bills for 20 years hence but as men who must look at it as a practical proposition. (Laughter.) And what is the practical proposition ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : And what about the British I. C. S. ?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I will come to that ; let me answer one question at a time. I will ask my Honourable friend to take note of his question and wait, for this is a very difficult and delicate subject, and I want to speak as it strikes me. I am quite willing to answer interruptions provided there is a fairness in interruptions, for I believe in giving way, but if there is no fairness in interruptions, I will not give way but go on with my speech as I would like to develop it. Now what was the first question ?

Mr. S. G. Jog : I wanted my Honourable friend to treat it as a practical proposition instead of dealing with imaginary questions of Sikhs and Muslims.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Let us deal with it as a practical proposition, not on imaginary lines but on practical lines. Imaginary lines ? Communal riots, my friend, may call them so, but they are actual. At present I want the Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs to co-operate and create Dominion Status within 20 years ; and, in that scheme of communal co-operation and development of Dominion Status within 20 years, I have not the slightest doubt that the Provincial Governments, properly manned with leading parties manning those Governments, will bring to bear upon the Government of India the maximum amount of pressure to abandon the present policy of recruiting their sepoy from selected martial classes only. Not that they will say that the men of the martial classes should not have their chance ; not that they will say that the officers drawn from those classes should not have their chance ; but they will say that as units of a Federation every Provincial Government and every Province which it governs has a right to adequate representation in the Army. And when that question comes up, there will also come up the question of the creation of a National Army. Sir, this issue cannot be shirked. It is all well and good to postpone the evil day of developing a complete Dominion Army ; but once Provincial Autonomy is set up, then with the pressure that the Provincial Governments will bring to bear upon the Government of India, Provincial considerations in regard to the formation of the army will prevail ; and if they prevail, will not the pace of Indianisation be accelerated ? And with that, will not the demand for the withdrawal or the reduction of the British

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army also become great? That is why I do not think of the Army in India as what it will be 20 years hence, but, as a practical man, I will address myself to the Indian Army as it is today. And to understand the achievement that India has made in this direction one has only to recall to one's mind the atmosphere of inferiority that prevailed before the war. I am sorry that Sir Abdur Rahim should put his hands into the worm-holes of a long vanished past and recall once again that atmosphere of inferiority 20 years afterwards. As Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has pointed out,—I will read only one sentence :

“ The studious exclusion of Indians from all but the humblest places in the army was so conspicuous that according to Sir George Chesney only one inference could be drawn from it, *viz.*, that the Government were afraid to trust them.”

Fortunately that atmosphere has been destroyed and evidence of the complete destruction of that atmosphere of distrust we find in these words of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, printed as an appendix to the report of the Indian Military College Committee :

“ Our first task is to create a steady flow of fine young officers. Once that is established, we can then proceed to expand as much as you like. Up to that point, however, I see no alternative to developing Indianisation within a definite field. Accordingly we must fix our intake to start with, and trust to increasing that figure as soon as we are assured that a regular supply of candidates of the requisite qualifications is forthcoming, and that the class of candidate we are getting is of the right type.”

I have no doubt that if public opinion and Members of this House were to exercise their brains in the right direction, then we will get not only the right type, but what is but a trickle, so far as the admission of Indian cadets to the Dehra Dun College is concerned, will become a steady flow, a larger flow and an ever-increasing flow. (Hear, hear.) Sir, Indians will soon demand, and very rightly according to the size of the population and the needs of the country, that there should be more military colleges in India than one. You have Sandhurst and Woolwich in England. We may have for a group of Provinces a Sandhurst, and then we will insist that the scheme that was developed and that was reported upon by General Sir John Shea should be given effect to. The present scheme, the Skeen Committee report scheme, falls short of the original scheme, but what did Sir John want? What did the Shea Committee want? And that leads us to the creation of a new atmosphere after the war. Before coming to the Shea Committee, I shall tell you how we got over the old atmosphere during the war. In his admirable book, the “ Indian Corps in France”, Lord Birkenhead gives rich tribute to the work that Indians did in the Army in the battle-fields of Europe. how non-commissioned officers took the places of commissioned officers : They did not wait for slogans about mixed formations (Laughter) : they took the place of commissioned officers and marched into the valley of death. (Cheers.) Lord Birkenhead says :

“ No man could be bold enough to predict the result of flinging Oriental troops into these horrible scenes, in a pitiless climate, to lose life and limb in a quarrel remote from their own experiences, uninspired by fears on behalf of their own people, or even of their own property. It was thought necessary to give six months' training in England to the superb raw material which formed the first Canadian Division : and many months were allowed to pass before it seemed desirable to send a Territorial Division as a unit to France. And yet those who knew the Indian soldier best were confident, however sudden his immersion into the Great War might be, that his traditions, his loyalty and his sense of duty would carry him through. And they did.”

That hesitation in regard to Canadian units did not prevail in the case of our Indian soldiers. (Hear, hear.)

In another place the contrast between the treatment of Canadian troops and Indian troops is furnished, thereby showing that in the battle-field of Europe what was an era of distrust disappeared and from the blood-stained yeast of war emanated the grant of equality to the Indian soldiers :

"He who wishes to form an opinion upon the opportuneness of the Indian contribution should reflect how swiftly the first arrivals were rushed into the firing line."

If Great Britain had ungratefully waited after that achievement of our soldiers during the war, there would have been justification for Sir Abdur Rahim's ultimatum. But she has made progress, and how does she progress? One has only to read the Shea Committee Report. The Shea Committee was appointed by the Late Lord Rawlinson, that great soldier-statesman, in accordance with the Resolution of this Legislative Assembly in 1921. It was composed purely of high military officers—three Lieut.-Generals, three Major-Generals, three Colonels and two Lieut.-Colonels, one of whom was secretary of the committee. That committee of experts, after close consultation and deliberation, came to the conclusion in regard to the complete Indianisation of the Indian Army that it could be accomplished within thirty years. That was ten years ago or more than ten years ago when they made that statement. Sir Abdur Rahim is talking of what should happen 20 years hence. (Interruption.) I am just reading to my Honourable friends Dr. Moonjee's summary of a statement from the Report of the Indian Military College Committee—page 45.

The recommendations of the Shea Committee Report were kept confidential from the Skeen Committee. The Skeen Committee was not allowed to see the Shea Committee's Report, because the Government wanted that they should arrive at an independent judgment; and the Skeen Committee, I admit, did not go as far as the Shea Committee. But I am telling you how the atmosphere changed after the war. The Shea Committee in their report actually drew up a scheme of Indianisation and recommended the establishment of a military college in India with an average annual output of 81 cadets during the first period of fourteen years, 182 cadets during the second period of nine years and a number ranging between 88 and 106 during the third period of seven years. These numbers did not include the cadets for Indian States forces which were fixed at 30. Commenting upon this Shea Committee's Report, Sir Sivaswami Iyer in his note—and that leads me again to Sir Henry Gidney's interruption, because though that was their original suggestion, probably they had some other suggestions to make in a subsequent report. Sir Sivaswami Iyer says :

"It must be remembered in this connection that according to the original proposals of the Shea Committee of 1920 the period suggested was only 42 years."

He goes on to say :

"Their revised programme, which was accepted by the Government of India, reduced the period of thirty years. We must not forget that in their supplementary report the Committee expressed the opinion that it was impossible to produce the very large number of educated, trained and experienced officers in a shorter time than 42 years."

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Therefore, if you take ten years from it, then you have 32 years and according to the original proposal or the amended proposal in the light of the view of the Government of India, after 20 years there should be complete Indianisation of the Army. I, at any rate, am not contemplating the complete Indianisation of the army. In that matter, I am not following the views of the members of the Round Table Conference. My own view of the subject is quite different. As Dominion Status is our goal, I take it that the British connection is a real thing ; and if the British connection is to be a real thing, then both in the Civil Service and in the Army I want British officials and officers, and, therefore, I will fix a percentage of British officers in the Indian Army, but I would withdraw, as was done in the case of the Colonies, the British Army in India. I would advocate the withdrawal of the British Army from India. In that case the " Army in India " of the future will consist only of the " Indian Army ", and that is why I want that there should be perfect equality of status and rank and precedence between Indian and European officers in the Indian Army. I am glad that the Government of India have sympathetically considered it and I am glad that the assurance of the Honourable the Leader of the House does not necessitate my moving my own amendment ; if this is achieved, namely, equality of status in the Indian Army between Indian officers and British officers when the British Army goes out of India, as it has gone out of the Colonies, then the bottom of Sir Abdur Rahim's amendment will be knocked off....

An Honourable Member : What will happen till then ?

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Till when ? Till the period anticipated by Sir John Shea, till 20 years after ? Many things will happen within 20 years. Within 20 years probably a new atmosphere will come into existence. I shall presently show that Sir Abdur Rahim has chosen a rather unhappy occasion to move his amendment....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : Tehcha !

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : " Tehcha ", says in his usual way a representative from Bihar. I shall just convey to him how he has chosen a very unhappy occasion. Has the Honourable gentleman who shouted his usual impolite shout, read the *Daily Mail* " India Blue Book " of 1934 ? Has he been following the propaganda that is going on in England against any kind of reforms being given to this country ? Mr. Winston Churchill will salute Sir Abdur Rahim for moving this amendment for he will be taking a new idea from Sir Abdur Rahim—I do not say that he gave this idea to Sir Abdur Rahim though he would have very much liked to exploit it. He will go to the people of England and say " Look at this : what do the Indian people want ? They want to put Indians over the head of British troops. They want to undermine the discipline of the British Army ". Already the White Paper scheme is bad enough with the army left out, with the army as the close preserve of the Government of India and of Whitehall. The Churchillites are condemning that White Paper : they call it the White Flag Paper : with defence as a reserved proposition they utter these condemnations. They say :

" Must we then conclude that the Conservative chiefs...."

This is the observation by Viscount Rothermere in the *Sunday Dispatch*, April 15th, 1934, circulated broadcast in England, read by a number of people for a penny in the shape of a blue pamphlet. They say :

1 P.M.

" Must we then conclude that the Conservative chiefs have determined to prove to the country that they can scuttle out of India as contemptibly as the most craven of Socialists ? If so, they are succeeding admirably. But let them not think, in their complacent folly, that they will escape the Nemesis which lies in wait for traitors to a great trust.

On the night of the next general election those responsible for the betrayal that is now being prepared will find themselves flung into well-deserved political oblivion by the righteous indignation of that Conservative Party which they are deliberately trying to deceive.

They will do well to take warning in time. If the Conservative Ministers in the National Government are not set on political suicide as well as the ruin of the British Empire they must tear up the White Paper and haul down the White Flag."

I am not surprised that His Majesty's Government have not accepted even my amendment. As one of His Majesty's Ministers, whose name will be enshrined in the hearts of unborn generations,—Lord Irwin,—told me in England, it is at present a matter for Indians to consider whether British opinion does not altogether count. I have placed before the House the attitude that is being adopted towards His Majesty's Government, and if His Majesty's Government are very cautious about proceeding further in the way indicated by Sir Abdur Rahim or even accepting my amendment—if they are so cautious about it, it is just because they have to take public opinion with them in England. I believe Sir Abdur Rahim, as a member of this Committee,—this Indian Military College Committee—said he will drop this Bill. I know the genesis of his amendment is in his Dissenting Note. Sir Abdur Rahim goes contrary to public opinion when he says that Indians should also have opportunities of completing their army career or having an army course in Sandhurst and Woolwich. The majority close the doors of Sandhurst and Woolwich to Indians. The Indian public opinion did not bother about it, for the Indian public want, not one military college in India, but several military colleges, and they salute this military college as a beginning. Such being the case, is this the time, I ask, for us to draw red herrings against the trail of national aspirations, as Sir Abdur Rahim, a great statesman and an experienced administrator, is so lightly doing on this occasion ? If only you read one sentence in this *Daily Mail* " Blue Book " you will find how chary are the British people, the British parliamentary people about British troops in India ? " The British troops in India are the cream of our army "—that is what they say, and they go on to say :

" Besides guarding the Frontier, the British Army in India is used many times a year to quell internal religious riots. It is recognised by the natives themselves as the only impartial force for this purpose. Racial hatreds make the defence or maintenance of order by an Indian Nationalist Army an impossibility."

That is the sort of thing which the Richards say and we should not supply material from here to them. Why not, on the other hand, accept the suggestion that the Honourable the Leader of the House has made, instead of letting loose so much poison gas through newspaper columns ? I found rather an interesting description of my Honourable friend, Colonel Lumby, in a Bombay newspaper. He is reported by *Bombay Sentinel*, because of Sir Abdur Rahim's amendment, to have let loose a good deal of " gaseous nonsense ". (Laughter.) That kind of nonsense was let

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loose and when my amendment was tabled, one newspaper agency, very agilely and very quickly, reported to the country—(*A Voice* : “Inspired amendment.”)—as my Honourable friend, Mr. Jog, says, that it was a Government-inspired amendment. I suppose the gentlemen who are responsible for reporting this mis-statement must be perspiring now. (*Mr. F. E. James* : “The Associated Press.”) (Laughter.) It was perfectly true that as soon as the House rose the other day, I rushed up to the seat of my Honourable friend, Colonel Lumby, and asked him, will it not be possible for the Government to give a statutory guarantee for the verbal assurance that he had given on the floor of this House—I said “one step enough for me”. Even though I proposed, Whitehall has disposed differently, and incidentally a reply has been given to the wild speculators in the irresponsible section of the Indian Press and some of their responsible men who sometimes run away with a malicious idea.

Lastly, I shall only call the attention of the Opposition to the phrase used by the Honourable the Leader of the House, namely, “the beginning of a Dominion army, the first stage of a Dominion model army”. What is our aspiration? We, who have taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty the King, his heirs and successors,—is it not our aspiration to have the same rights as the Dominions people have? Is it not our endeavour to have the same army as the Dominion armies? I do not want more. In times of war, what has happened will happen. Temporary King’s commissions will be given to our army officers because in war there will be no inferiority complex when an endeavour is being made to destroy it. We have heard much of the phrase, inferiority complex. Who has created the inferiority complex, may I ask? Sir, the comments that have appeared in the newspapers have created or tried to create—Sir Abdur Rahim’s comments—they have created an inferiority complex among our young men who have started on an army career. I think the greatest dis-service that we can do to our people is to create such an inferiority complex. Our men must start their career with faith, faith not only in themselves, but faith in carrying on the King’s Government. Not being devotees of independence, I do not really see why we should not try to create a greater enthusiasm for a larger number of Indian young men to enter the army career, and if that enthusiasm is found in this country, nothing can impress His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief more to advocate our cause with even greater enthusiasm than verbal oratory sometimes leads to.

Now, then I come to the question of my Honourable friend from Sind. He referred to the Indian Civil Service, and when he was referring me to the Indian Civil Service, he was really repeating the arguments of Sir Abdur Rahim. Sir Abdur Rahim took his stand on the analogy of the Indian Civil Service. He said, are not European members of the Indian Civil Service serving under Indian members of the Indian Civil Service? Is not the Leader of the House here an Indian, whereas the European Members on the Treasury Benches are only playing second fiddle to him? Perfectly true, but the analogy does not hold good. If Sir Abdur Rahim’s proposition is accepted, what follows? An Indian is put to command British troops. It is quite different to what my amendment sought, and what the Leader of the House has conceded in his statement is that Indian officers of the Dehra Dun College should have an opportunity, when the time comes, when they acquire the status and the rank after going through

the necessary experience, of bossing over European officers. And this analogy of the Indian Civil Service officers, or rather officials, to be more accurate, of the European variety working under Indian officials, holds good in regard to Indian officers of the Indian army occupying a higher place in formations of the Indian army over European officers of that Army. Sir, that is a great point gained. If the Colonials cannot have mixed formations, I, who am aware of the fact that India has not yet got Dominion status, will be asking for the moon if I seek for a higher position from the Government and again there is this question. Even from an Indian point of view, must an Indian be put over the head of British officers and British troops in a mixed formation? Should he be put in that invidious position? Who are the British troops? Are they more civilised than the Oriyas? (Laughter.) The troops are not so educated as their officers and if the product of the Dehra Dun College may boss over an educated British officer, is it not sufficient to show to my country and to the young men who started on an army career that inequality exists only in the brains of misguided politicians?

Sir Abdur Rahim has enunciated "a new principle". What is that new principle? That new principle is the principle of equality between the British officers and the Indian officers in the Indian army. Sir, it is necessary to refresh the mind of this House; the products of Dehra Dun will not have the same education as the products of Sandhurst. They will not draw the same pay as the products of Sandhurst, and, therefore, in a future age inequality may be threatened and that is why I say even though they do not draw the same pay as the British officer in the Indian army, they will be drawing the same pay as the British officer in the British army. Therefore, there is equality between the product of Dehra Dun serving in his own country and the product of Sandhurst serving in his own country. I should not grudge the British officer who comes to this land of regrets, who is a voluntary exile in this land of regrets (Laughter), the overseas allowance which the British officer gets when he goes abroad, and, if one takes the trouble to find the difference between the salary of the Dehra Dun product and the salary of the British officer in the Indian Army, that difference will actually crystallise into an overseas allowance. When you remember that he has to keep two establishments, one in this country and another in his own, a generous nation like ours will not grudge this concession. Sir, salaries and status do not necessarily go together and my amendment, after the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore's statement, becomes unnecessary, because the Government have clearly undertaken to incorporate in the working of this Act the spirit of my amendment. Sir, I do not want to weary the House. I thought my statements will be challenged and so I have brought with me a large number of books. I am grateful to the Opposition for having given to me that silent listening which means half acquiescence. (Applause.)

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, after you had given your ruling the other day, my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, appealed to me to accept his amendment. It would have been dishonest of me to have accepted an amendment of such a far-reaching character, knowing full well as I did, and as I had already informed the House, that His Majesty's Government were not prepared to concede to India in this matter of powers of command over the British personnel of the British army more than they had conceded to any of the self-governing

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Dominions. Moreover, I felt that, while Government might very probably be able to go out to meet my Honourable friend's point of view to the extent of three-fifths of way on paper and in practice very considerably further, yet, if his amendment were accepted, it would probably be necessary for the whole Bill to go by the board and the initial gain would prove ultimately to be a loss ; for it would mean that we could not proceed with the principle, on which this Bill was originally drafted, of laying the foundation of a Dominion army in this country.

Now, Sir, the ground which is common to Sir Abdur Rahim and the Government,—the 'three-fifths of the way' to which I have just referred,—is the Indian army. As I have stated more than once, in this House, it has been decided that within the Indian Army, the Indian Commissioned officer will be on the same footing as the British officer of the Indian Army as regards command, rank and precedence. That is, the senior Indian Commissioned officer will have powers of command, including powers of punishment, over British personnel as well as Indian personnel of the Indian Army who are junior to him in rank and service. The rules for promotion within the Indian Army will be the same for the Indian commissioned officer and the British officer, and their opportunities of command of extra regimental employment and the like within the Indian Army will be the same.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar (Nominated Non-Official) : May I ask a question ? Suppose an officer from Dehra Dun joins an Indianised unit on the 1st January and an officer from Sandhurst joins a non-Indian unit on the 2nd January, who will command ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Indian officer from Dehra Dun would command.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : If there is a British officer in a British regiment who has got the commission two years after the man who gets from Dehra Dun, and there are two regiments, who will command if there is a mixed formation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : That is the point I am coming to. I am referring at the moment to the Indian Army only. Within the Indian Army, as I have said, the two kinds of King's Commission will in effect be on the same footing. That is what I meant,—and what I still mean,—when I gave a guarantee on behalf of Government that there will be complete reciprocity of powers and privileges within the Indian Army as between the British officer and the Indian Commissioned officer.

The difficulty arises, as my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has pointed out, when we come to the British Army. The Indian Commissioned officer, like the Dominion officer, by reason of having a limited Dominion type of commission, will not automatically have powers of command over the personnel of the British Army in India, but, with the two portions of the Army in India serving side by side, the situation would be impossible if an insuperable gulf was fixed between the Indian Commissioned officers and the British personnel of the British army. His Majesty's Government have, therefore, agreed to frame a regulation, in addition to the one covering the situation inside the Indian Army, under which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and other Commanders will be able to authorise the Indian Com-

missioned officer to exercise powers of command over British personnel of the British army on occasions when it is necessary for the harmonious working of the two portions of the Army in India, that he should do so. It would be impossible for the Army to function otherwise.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I ask whether such orders will be issued from time to time, or there will be a general order from the Commander-in-Chief ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As regards these occasions, no limit is, I gather, set in the draft King's Regulation to the scope of the nature of the occasions which may be appointed.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : Will the Honourable Member clear up the point ? When he says that the orders will be issued occasionally, supposing an attack is going to be made on the enemy, and at one time we find that there are only two regiments, one British and one Indian, now the Indian officer being senior and the British officer being junior, how will they wait till orders are issued for deciding as to who is going to lead the attack ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I have no doubt that orders will be issued covering all cases of active service operations.

Sir Abdur Rahim : What is the necessity of appointing occasions in the case of Indian Commissioned Officers ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : If you will let me continue,—Sir at the start, when these young officers have only got a small amount of service, the occasions which will be appointed will obviously be very few and far between, but as time goes on, they will increase and increase. And the extent to which they will increase will depend on the extent to which these young officers prove their worth.

Sir, it has been suggested that there is something racial in the distinction which is to be made in the matter of automatic powers of command over personnel of the British Army. That is not so. Exactly the same thing exists in the case of the Australian and the Canadian Armies. During the Great War an arrangement was made under which it was possible for the various portions of the armies of the Empire to function together, and that arrangement included the grant of powers of command to all Dominion officers over British personnel. One would have expected, that after these two types of officers had served side by side in such struggle, that arrangement would be perpetuated in peace, at any rate in the case of officers who had actually been granted temporary commissions in the British Army. Not a bit of it. The moment the war was over, the situation was changed, and the Dominion officer now has no automatic power of control over the British personnel of the British Army any more than the British officer of the British Army or of the Indian Army has any powers of control over Dominion troops. There is one thing particularly which I would like to ask Honourable Members to consider in this regard. I would like them to put themselves in the position of His Majesty's Government and to ask themselves two questions. Would any one of them, if he was a member of His Majesty's Government, be prepared to commit the troops for whom he was responsible for all time, not only in peace, but also in war, to the charge of a category of officers which was not yet in existence ?

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And secondly, would any one of them, if he was a member of His Majesty's Government, be prepared to commit the troops for whom he was responsible for all time, not only in peace, but also in war, to a category of officers over whose training, if the policy of His Majesty's Government were carried into full effect, His Majesty's Government, would have no authority whatever ? There can be only one answer and that is " No ".

Sir, we knew that with regard to these automatic powers of command His Majesty's Government would not be prepared to give to India anything more than they have given to any of the self-governing Dominions, but, in a desire to meet, as far as possible, the wish of this House for a statutory provision in this Bill as regards powers of command, the Government, as the Honourable the Leader of the House has already told us, drafted a counter-amendment, which had the same scope as the amendment which was originally to be moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, that is to say, an amendment which made statutory provision for the guarantee which I had given on more than one occasion that there would be complete reciprocity of powers and privileges within the Indian Army. As the House knows, His Majesty's Government have found themselves unable to meet the wish of the Government of India in this respect, but the guarantee still remains, and it seems to me, therefore, that anybody who, if Mr. Ranga Iyer had moved his amendment, would have been prepared to vote in favour of it and for the granting of complete reciprocity within the Indian Army, can, with a clear conscience, support Government in trying to avoid including in the Bill anything which covers the question of command, which, as has been pointed out, is a matter of His Majesty's prerogative.

On the other hand, I would like to say to my Honourable friend, the Mover of the amendment, that it would be a sad thing if he were to press it. I do not say this, because it trespasses upon the King's prerogative or because it may, if passed, land us in legal difficulties. I say it from the point of view of the officers who will be commissioned from Dehra Dun. As he knows, these officers have got to be provided for very shortly and that is the reason why we have had to hurry on with this Bill. A good deal depends on the start they get in their military career. If they do not make a proper start, they will have no hope of making good and proving their worth, on which, as I said just now, depends the extent to which the occasions for command over British troops will be increased. I appealed to the House only the other day to combine with us in seeing that these young officers receive, outside the army, as fair a deal as they are going to receive inside of it. I am afraid that my appeal has fallen on deaf ears, for the inferiority complex propaganda is just as rife as ever. Sir, if in spite of all we can do, these young officers start on their career with their tails down, that is going to mean another set-back to the Indianization of the Army. I would, therefore, like to point out to the Honourable the Mover of this amendment that during the period from 1911, when the Indian Army Act first became law in its present form, to the present day, there have been seven amending Bills. Admittedly, that number is more than normal because of the Great War, but, at the same time, he will have plenty of opportunities on which to press this point of his about the command of higher formations on the occa-

sions of other amending Bills before it actually materializes. If he will delay until then, he will be able to press his point on the basis of facts, on the basis of concrete regulations and, if he is correct in the difficulty he anticipates, on the basis of concrete cases, and not merely, as at present, on the basis of a bogey which we at any rate do not anticipate will ever materialize. One final point with regard to the suggestion that the proposals that Government have made with regard to the Indian Commissioned officers constitute a breach of faith. As Honourable Members will remember, it is more than two years since this House accepted with acclamation an Indian Air Force Act which embodied exactly the same principle as regards powers of command over British personnel as Government propose shall apply in the case of Indian Commissioned Officers. And yet I can find nowhere that during the course of the debate on that Bill it was ever suggested that the Indian officer of the Indian Air Force should have any automatic powers of command over the British officers of the Royal Air Force. I repeat again what I quoted from the Press Communiqué to which I made reference earlier in the debate, that it was announced in 1932 that the Indian Commissioned officers from the Indian Military Academy would have commissions in His Majesty's Indian Land Forces. Of course, it is open to any one to say, that nobody knew what was meant by the grant of a commission in His Majesty's Indian Land Forces. I am always having extracts from the Skeen Committee's report thrown at my head when it suits the purpose of Honourable gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, but I would recall that in that much-quoted report there is a whole section devoted to an unfortunate experiment in Indianization that was started in 1905 in which commissions were granted in His Majesty's Native Indian Land Forces, and in that section, attention is drawn to the limitations of that form of commission. Finally, Sir, it has been said that no question of the Indian Commissioned officer having different terms of service was ever raised at the time of the Indian Military College Committee, but I may tell the House that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in his opening address to the Committee made it clear that there was going to be one difference, because he pointed out that, if the Indian Commissioned Officer or rather the officer who would come out of the Academy, were to be paid at the same rate as the British officer, it would mean a considerable increase in the cost of the various regiments of the Indian army. Sir, there has been no breach of faith and there is going to be none. What I want to ask this House is this. Do they want on the strength of a vague allegation of breach of faith and a theoretical supposition as regards what may happen 20 or 25 years hence, to give these officers, when they come out of Dehra Dun, a bad start in life, to jeopardise the whole scheme that we, on their insistence, have produced for their training in this country and thus retard the progress of the Indianization of the Indian army?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : May I ask the Honourable Member one question, Sir, which is of great importance and on which my vote will largely depend? The Honourable Member made a statement just now that there was no racial differentiation and that it was purely a question of a commission. Will the Honourable Member give me an answer to this question? Suppose there were a mixed formation in a station and in an Indian regiment there was an Indian who had passed out of Sandhurst with a King's Commission, would this disability apply

Liladhar Chaudhury, Soth.
Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta.
Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
Mitra, Mr. S. C.
Mody, Mr. H. P.
Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
Parma Nand, Bhaj.
Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
Raghubir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.
Reddi, Mr. P. G.
Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj.
Sadiq Hasan, Shaikh.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sen, Mr. S. C.
Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.
Wilayatullah, Khan Bahadur II. M.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—49.

Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
 Duguid, Mr. A.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.

James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
 Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Lee, Mr. D. J. N.
 Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.
 Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Perry, Mr. E. W.
 Raisman, Mr. A. J.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.

Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
 Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
 Rastogi, Rai Sahib Badri Lal.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Richards, Mr. W. J. C.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Scott, Mr. W. L.
 Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumana Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Studd, Mr. E.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Zakauallah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu Abdullah Muhammad.
 Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary) : Sir, I do not move the amendment* which stands in my name.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 to 42, both inclusive, were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, for certain purposes, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, Mr. Ranga Iyer, while opposing the

*“ That sub-clause (f) of clause 5 of the Bill be omitted and that sub-clause (g) be re-lettered (f).”

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

amendment of Sir Abdur Rahim in a very incoherent and unconvincing speech, nevertheless, made the following observation :

“ Lord Birkenhead gives rich tribute to the work that Indians did in the Army in the battlefields of Europe, how non-commissioned officers took the places of commissioned officers ; they did not wait for slogans about mixed formations ; they took the place of commissioned officers and marched into the valley of death.”

Sir, no one on this side of the House could have put more forcibly our point of view in support of the amendment than did Mr. Ranga Iyer in this statement quite unwillingly. We do not want that any distinctions should be made in the ranks of the King's Commissioned or Indian Commissioned officers of the army in India because their work lies in the battlefield where they have to march to the valley of death and fight side by side and should not wait for orders as to who should take precedence in command. It is because we do not want that such humiliating distinctions should exist in the army that my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, the Leader of the Opposition, moved the amendment which was defeated by such a narrow majority this afternoon. Sir, when the Indian army went to Flanders and stemmed the tide of the German on-rush and when India poured forth her money and men for the successful prosecution of the Great War, the British Government out of abundant generosity,—shall I say of gratitude,—promised Dominion Status to India and as a necessary corollary, they wanted to Indianise the army in India as early as possible. Subsequently many responsible British Statesmen at the Round Table Conference have assured that the defence of India must entirely be the concern of the Indians. In pursuance of those declarations, committees were appointed to enquire into ways and means to achieve that object. Lord Rawlinson, who was the Commander-in-Chief in India at that time, presided over a committee in the year 1922 and he recommended drastic changes in the army. But the report of that committee was not at all published. Then followed the Shea Committee. That committee recommended the Indianisation of the officers in the army within a period of 28 years. But, Sir, that scheme also was not published. Twelve years have already elapsed since that scheme was recommended ; and, if they had given effect to those recommendations then, nearly half the British officers in the Indian army would have been replaced by Indian officers by this time. Government have not given effect to that recommendation also. Sir, then came the Skeen Committee, and the Skeen Committee recommended among other things the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst in India before the year 1933, and in pursuance of its recommendations a military college at Dehra Dun was started. Now the Indian officers are being trained there, and the Army Secretary has introduced this Bill in order, according to him, to make certain changes in the Army Act of 1911 consequent on the policy of progressive Indianisation of the Army. Sir, the object is very innocuous, as it has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, but even the Army Secretary will not deny the fact that an inferiority complex has been introduced in the matter of officers that come out of the Dehra Dun College. He will not deny that Indian officers will not automatically have the same powers of command in relation to British personnel as British officers possess. The Indian officers will not be able to sit along with British officers in a court martial on a British soldier. Sir, I ask the Government, whether the same distinction is observed in the case of the Indian King's Commissioned officers who are

trained at Sandhurst? It is not for the first time that Indians have been appointed as officers with powers of command over British personnel. Already, in the Indian army, we have Indian officers who have been trained at Sandhurst. There they do not show any distinction between the British King's commissioned officer and the Indian King's commissioned officer; and hence, I ask, why should Government for the first time bring in this distinction between the Indian King's commissioned officer and the Indian commissioned officer trained at Dehra Dun? Sir, the Army Secretary might say that the Indian King's commissioned officers were trained at Sandhurst and they had received superior instruction to those officers who received training at Dehra Dun and further they had been imbued with the high traditions of Sandhurst and, therefore, they must be treated as men with better status than the Indian officers trained at Dehra Dun. But I ask him, what about those 39 odd King's Commissioned officers who have been trained in the Indore School which was started in 1918 owing to the exigencies of the war? There are now 39 Indian King's Commissioned officers who were trained entirely in India and who have been enjoying equal status and privileges and powers of command with the British Commissioned officers in the Indian Army. I do not see why the Government should seek to give this inferior status to the Indian Commissioned Officers. My Honourable and gallant friend, the Army Secretary, replying to the amendment moved by Sir Abdur Rahim, stated that we should not talk of inferior status of these Indian Commissioned Officers and that we should not allow them to enter upon their duties with tails down—that is the phrase he used. And again, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief when he opened the college at Dehra Dun also stated that we should insure a steady inflow of these cadets to be trained at this Indian college at Dehra Dun. I say it is not we who are talking of inferior status for these officers: we will be stamping them with inferior status if we agree to pass this Bill as it exists at present. It is the Army Secretary himself who is giving that inferior status to these officers coming out of Dehra Dun. On the other hand the Opposition is trying to remove that inferior status. I ask, what will be the effect of giving this inferior status to these Indian cadets, who are coming out of that college, and what will be the effect on future recruitment? Whatever may be the other virtues of the Government of India, consistency is not one. When the Army Secretary—I mean his predecessor—introduced the Navy Bill, which is still before us, he stated that we should change the name of the Royal Indian Marine into the Royal Indian Navy, because the very name 'Navy' has a magic about it: that it would raise the status of the Indian Navy and it would attract more and more cadets, and that, on the other hand, required number of cadets are not forthcoming because of the inferior status of the Royal Indian Marine. But now the position is reversed. Now, instead of giving equal status to these Indian Commissioned officers who pass out of Dehra Dun, the Bill seeks to give them an inferior status; and, hence, it will have a very bad effect on the morale of these officers. It is a very dangerous thing that these officers in the Indian army should have to work under the stigma of inferiority. It will also tell upon future recruitment for the college at Dehra Dun.

My Honourable and gallant friend, the Army Secretary, has stated that we are making vague allegations of breach of faith. I submit we have not been making vague allegations. I shall prove that it will be a breach of faith, if we, by passing this Bill, give to the officers coming out of Dehra

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

Dun an inferior status. They entered the college on the good faith of the declarations made from time to time by the Government of India that they will be treated equally with the King's Commissioned officers.....

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : May I say that from the very start the cadets at the Indian Military College at Dehra Dun have known exactly what their future would be, what rates of pay they would get and what exactly their status would be ?

Sir Abdur Rahim : Were they told what their opportunities would be for command, that it would be less than of the others ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As far as I know they have had nothing concealed from them.

Sir Abdur Rahim : But were they told expressly ?

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : We do not mind the smaller pay and allowances given to these officers, because, after all they have to serve in India and I do not very much mind about the pay they are going to get : we can't admit of their being given inferior status in command. You will admit that this college was started on the recommendations of the Skeen Committee. My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, has said that this Skeen Committee has been quoted very often. I will, however, quote some passages from that report to show what status they proposed to be given to the future officers from the Dehra Dun College and also some general observations with regard to the existing eight units system which tended to segregate Indian officers. At page 19, they say :

"With Indianisation proceeding in the Army in any measure, the only means of ensuring successful Indianisation and, concomitantly, the maximum degree attainable of military efficiency, is to allow Indian officers to serve, shoulder to shoulder, with British officers each learning from the other in every unit of the Indian Army. This was the original plan and, as we believe, the correct one."

Again, on page 20, they say :

"The idea that as a result of the introduction of the 'eight units scheme' no British officer will ever have to take orders from an Indian officer, is, apart from everything else, fallacious. Before the 'eight units scheme' was adopted, there were Indian King's Commissioned officers in other units and they remain there and will continue to be senior to all British officers who join these units subsequently. Moreover, regimental units are not watertight compartments : and there are numerous occasions in army life when the officers of one unit come into contact with officers of other units : and on such occasions the senior officer, whoever he may be, takes precedence and command. But, however fallacious the idea may be, the more fact that it is current is fatal to any prospect of success which the 'eight units scheme' might otherwise have had. Suspicion and mistrust have been engendered which it will hardly be possible to remove without the scheme itself being abandoned."

I want that such suspicion and mistrust should not exist in the Indian Army with regard to the officers that come out of Dehra Dun. With regard to the starting of the Dehra Dun College and the status of the officers trained therein they state at page 41 :

"But a more specific consideration is that the commissions granted to boys trained at the Indian Sandhurst must be King's Commissions, conferring, so far as the Army in India is concerned, i.e., both British and Indian troops, the same status, authority and precedence as the King's Commissions granted to cadets trained at Sandhurst..... Indian officers, if they are to pull their weight in the Army in India, must be empowered, like their British comrades, to take command of other British officers junior to themselves and to take command of mixed bodies of troops."

This is what they have stated explicitly. Subsequently, there was a committee—the Indian Military College Committee—appointed, in which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Sir Abdur Kahim, was also a member and what does the majority report of this Committee say with regard to entrants to this college? They do not want to give an inferior status to the Indian officers as compared with the King's Commissioned officers. They say at page 17 :

“It is our object to give the new College a good start and to encourage its successful development to the utmost. During its earlier stages the greater prestige of Sandhurst would undoubtedly attract a certain number of candidates who could afford to go there; and these, when commissioned in the Indian Army, would tend to regard themselves as superior to their contemporaries from the Indian College. Such an attitude would have the worst possible effect upon the *esprit de corps* of young Indian officers. Nor do we think that it would be justified in actual fact. The new College, planned and organised, as it will be, exclusively for Indian cadets in their own country, must surely provide a more suitable and efficient training for the Indian officer of the future than a course designed for British youths in England, however thorough and however carefully adapted the latter course may be.”

This is the recommendation of the majority report of the Indian Military College Committee. This Committee go even further. They do not want to give to these officers a further training in England after they pass out of this College. The Skeen Committee recommended a further course of training in England. There also they are very particular to say that these Indian Commissioned officers who pass out of Dehra Dun should not be admitted as ordinary cadets in Sandhurst because their position would be superior to that of the cadets at Sandhurst. They are already officers, and, therefore, they should not be put on the same footing as cadets at Sandhurst. On the other hand, the Skeen Committee's recommendation was that they should be attached to the infantry and cavalry of the British units. This is what they say :

“We are satisfied, however, that this would not be a feasible proposition, as the Indian students would already have been commissioned, and could not be introduced into an institution where the other students are only cadets. We recommend, therefore, that to complete their preparation the Indian cadets, having been commissioned, should be attached to a cavalry or infantry unit in the United Kingdom for a period of one year.”

This Military College Committee do not want that these officers should even go and get themselves trained in England because it would put them in an inferior position. In the dissenting minutes the minority Members of the Select Committee to which the Army Bill was referred, quoted the words of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief when he opened.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot attempt an entirely second reading speech now.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : I obey your ruling, Sir, but my argument is that it will be a breach of faith if we pass this Bill and, thereby, create an inferior status for the Indian officers. In support of that contention, I am quoting from the speeches of H. E. the Commander-in-Chief and declarations made, from time to time, to show that they were not told of any inferior status. That is my point. That is why I submit that this statement of a breach of faith is not a vague statement as the Army Secretary has stated, but, it is one supported by facts and documentary evidence. It will be a very dangerous precedent if

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

we create such a kind of inferior status, with the consequent heart-burnings in the officers who are to be placed in command of the army. Indians are fit to fight in the battles of the Empire shoulder to shoulder with the British officers and British men and commingle their blood on the battle-fields, but they are not fit to have the same equal command with British officers! Sir, if the Army Authorities think that the instruction that is given in the Indian Sandhurst at Dehra Dun is not sufficient, let them import officers from the United Kingdom who could give better training and let them bring it to the level of the Sandhurst, and, if necessary, let officers who are trained here be sent for a further course of training in England. Afterwards, let them be given an equality of status and not an inferior status. But since the amendment of my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, has not been accepted, I have no hesitation in opposing the passage of this Bill.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, a good deal has been said in this House about the Dominion armies as compared to the Indian army that is to come into existence. I respectfully beg to submit that the analogy is not a good one. We have been told that His Majesty's Government have gone even further to meet the wishes of Indians with regard to the future Indian army than they were prepared to go with regard to the Dominion armies. Mr. President, I desire to point out, as I have already said, that there is no analogy between the Indian army, as it exists today and is likely to exist for some years to come, and the army of any Dominion that is in existence. Today, in our Indian army we have British officers trained in England who choose the Indian army for their future career. There is no such thing as British officers in the Dominion armies. Their armies are manned by officers of their own people. In the Canadian army there are Canadian officers; in the Australian army there are Australian officers. In the Indian army there are Indian officers and British officers who have chosen the Indian army as a career. Up to now there was no distinction whatsoever between a British officer in the Indian army and an Indian officer of the Indian army. They both were trained in Sandhurst, they both had the same privileges.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official) : Would you kindly tell me the difference between the Dominion army and the Indian army? In the Indian army you have so many religions and sects.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The Honourable Member can make that point in his speech.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : I regret I am unable to follow the Honourable Member. I am prepared to give way if you have no objection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : No, no. The Honourable Member can go on.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : That is the great distinction between the Indian army and the Dominion army, and this Bill now provides for a distinction between officers and officers in the Indian army itself. If there were any prospect of Indianising the whole army within a very short period of time my argument would not stand good. We fully realise that there are no such prospects. We fully realise that for years to come there will be British officers in the Indian army. We were satis-

fied with that position because we felt that there are and that there would be in increasing numbers Indian officers also in the Indian army ; but by this Bill you make a distinction between Indian officers and British officers in the Indian army. We were told by the Army Secretary that in the Indian army itself there would be no distinctions. Correct. That is, to say, whether the officer be British or Indian, seniority would be the principal guiding factor. But there will be a time when Indian officers in the Indian army will come to a seniority when they will hope to command a brigade. The British officer will automatically be allowed to command a brigade. The Indian officer will only command a brigade on a special occasion. That is the great distinction and that is the distinction you are making in this Bill which did not exist.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muhamadan Rural) : May I ask the Honourable Member in what part of the Bill he finds this distinction made.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : My Honourable friend has been in this House listening to all these debates and at this stage he asks me this question. I am afraid he had better go over to the Army Secretary and take a few lessons.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : He is perfectly correct.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Do you mean to say that the Indian officer in the Indian army will automatically command a brigade or be allowed to command a brigade ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As I said this morning, there is nothing in the Bill about powers of command.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : There is nothing in the Bill at all. What I have been arguing all this time is that the practical effect of this Bill is that there is a distinction between the Indian army officer and the British Indian army officer. A British officer in the Indian army will have the same position and privileges as a British officer in the British army. There will be no distinction with regard to commanding brigades or mixed formations, while there will be a difference in the case of the Indian commissioned officer in the Indian army. Now, Sir, there is nobody so foolish as to expect that the Indian army officer of the future will be allowed to command a British regiment. No Canadian officer would be allowed to do so. No Australian officer would be allowed to do so, but in the Canadian and the Australian armies, there is only one class of officers. There is no distinction between two classes. If none of them are allowed to command a mixed formation, I can understand it, but there is this distinction that you do make in this Bill, and I will repeat it, that a British officer in the Indian army, without special permission or without a special occasion, can command a brigade or a mixed formation; while an Indian officer will not be allowed to do so and that anomaly will exist as long as there are British officers in the Indian army, unless you make a radical change in your method of recruiting British officers to the Indian army. You can have a special commission for them—an Indian commission where they will enjoy the same status, the same privileges.

Well, Sir, my feelings with regard to this Bill can be summed up in a few words. I think there is no necessity for me to draw the attention of the Bench opposite to the strong feeling in this country about Indianisation. You are giving them one more argument for insisting

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

upon Indianisation, for insisting that within a certain number of years you must do away with the British officer in the Indian army. You are adding one more argument to the many arguments that have been heard in this House and many more outside this House for a period being put upon the existence of the life of the British army in India. You are giving additional arguments for these two demands in India. Is it wise? You may be at present in a difficult position. It may be that you realise as well as we do that the British army officer must continue to be recruited for the Indian army. It may be that if there was any change in the status of the British officer in the Indian army you may not get that recruitment which you desire. There may be these practical difficulties. I fully realise them as the position stands today, but at the same time, Government must realise the feelings of Indians, and the more helpless Indians are, the more sensitive are they about matters of this sort. To an Englishman such a distinction may mean nothing. They may say it is a quibble; for 20 years nothing is going to happen. Why quibble? The Englishman can afford to say that. He is strong. He is powerful. He belongs to the governing race here. It is not a quibble for the Indian. He is not the upper dog. He feels all these distinctions much more keenly than many Honourable Members opposite realise. I may be in a peculiar position to be able to understand the working of the minds of my Honourable friends opposite. I am certainly in a position to understand the working of the minds of my brother Indians as well and I have often felt that notwithstanding a residence of 20 or 30 years in this country, Englishmen do not understand the working of an Indian's mind. If Indians were in a position today of equality with Englishmen in India, they might call arguments such as those which have been placed before you from this side of the House as quibbling, but, as long as Indians are in this position of inferiority with no responsible government opposite to them, they will continue to put forward such arguments which to them will never be a quibble. To them such distinctions will be insults of the very first water. Sir, it might be said, and correctly said, that this question will never be one of practical politics for 20 years, but the Indian officer coming out of Dehra Dun will fully realise that his brother officer from Sandhurst is in a privileged position. The British officer will always have a better chance of getting a command of a brigade than the Indian officer, unless a special occasion arises, and, at present, I am unable to visualise what that special occasion may mean. It may be only confined to active service. Now, there is this distinction and it is only fair that the Government in England should realise the feelings of Indians. I on my side am prepared to admit the difficulties of the Government in the present circumstances. I am prepared to admit that if the status of the Indian officer coming from Dehra Dun, and that of the British officer coming into the Indian Army from Sandhurst, was placed in exactly the same position with regard to commanding mixed formations you may have trouble in recruitment. That may be so, but I consider that it is worth while taking the risk and changing the status of the future British officer in the Indian Army and putting him on an exact equality with the Indian Army officer of the future (Hear, hear), and that is the only remedy with regard to the great dissatisfaction that has been expressed from this side of the House. I shall not be much surprised if, in a very few years, you will have to solve the problem in that way

or you will have to give a British King's commission to the officers coming from Dehra Dun, because you insist upon having a British Army in India, because you insist upon having British officers in the Indian Army, and I am prepared to admit that, under present circumstances, it may be to the advantage of India to have the British Army in India. It may be to the advantage of India to have British officers in the Indian Army. That may be so. I am prepared to admit it, but I am not prepared to allow any distinction to take place in the future between Indian Army officers, whether they be brown, black or white, I would welcome them of all colours without distinction, but let not the young Indian officer be brought up in the belief that he can never take charge of a brigade, because there is the British Army in India. The question would never have arisen, had it not been for the existence of the British Army. You will bring him up in an atmosphere of animosity against the British Army, because he will feel that it is on account of the existence of this British Army that he is not allowed to rise to the top of the ladder of his profession, and he will join the ranks of many of my friends, who desire to see the British Army wiped out of India,—and, mind you, an advocate of the wiping out of the British Army in India amongst the ranks of Indian officers is the worst thing you can create for the Empire and for us all. (Hear, hear.) I see looming in the future before me a considerable amount of trouble for all of us. It may be quibbling today, it won't be quibbling in five years' time. You may pass your Bill. Nothing may be heard about it for five or seven years; but in five or seven years you *will* have to make a change of a very radical character, a much more radical character than would be necessary today. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal : European) : Sir, I have listened with great interest to all the speeches from the Opposition Benches, but I have failed to find, except from what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, any suggestion as to how this particular position today in the transition period which all of us visualize can be got over. My Honourable friend suggested a change in the status of the British officers in the Indian Army. That is quite a new suggestion. That cannot be done today. The idea we all have had in mind, when I say "the idea we all have had in mind", I go back to 1921 when I made a speech in Calcutta, in which one of the principal items was the Indianization of the Indian Army, and, since then, I have never failed to argue that the Indianization of the Indian Army must go on as quickly as it possibly could, because, the advent of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms scheme and the promises contained in the announcements which were made necessitated the position that India should take care of its own defence. Now, Sir, I understand that that is the desire of every Member of this Legislative Assembly—the Indianization of the Indian Army. I support this Bill, Sir, because I look upon it as the beginning of what we have all had in view for the last twelve or fifteen years. Without this beginning, I cannot see how the Indianization of the Indian Army is to be accelerated. Suppose this Bill were not passed,—we have had a very lucid statement from the Leader of the House as to the position—this Central Legislature would not then have the power of control which they want over the Indian Army. Then how do you proceed with the Indianization? The only constructive proposition put forward was what my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, suggested, namely, "start all over again and change the status of

[Mr. G. Morgan.]
the British officer''. That is an entirely different proposition ; but, as we stand at present, I do not see any way of getting over this position of the transitional period.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I interrupt my Honourable friend ? Just now, today, there is no distinction between the Indian officer and the British officer both coming from Sandhurst. That can continue.

Mr. G. Morgan : That may be so, but I understand that the Sandhurst position will not continue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Why should it not continue ?

Mr. G. Morgan : That is another point. But the question is—does the Central Legislature desire control over the Indian Army ? I say it does. As a Member of that Legislature I stick to that opinion. We in this Legislature wish to have the control of the Indian Army. The unfortunate position which we are in today with regard to the British Army in India is that during this transition stage we cannot get over that position by a stroke of the pen. My Honourable friend opposite, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, says that we have not the faintest idea of what is in Indian minds. Sir, I challenge that statement. I do know what is in the minds of my Honourable friends. The difficulty is, how to get over it ? The question of the mixed formations is a very difficult one and that particular position has been explained by the Leader of the House and it would be impossible to get over that in a constitutional way and without encroaching upon the prerogative of His Majesty. Can any Honourable Member point out how that can be done ? Sir, the commission which will be given to the Dehra Dun cadets will be the same as the Dominion commissions.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : No.

Mr. G. Morgan : My Honourable friend is perfectly right ; it is more than the commissions given to the Dominions officer, in that, within the Indian Army, he will have a command over the British officers and personnel. What my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, said just now is perfectly correct. If there was a mixed formation of the Dominion army and the British army, the Dominion officer will not have any power to command over the British army. That is to say, he would be in the same position as the Indian Commissioned Officer, except on occasions, which point has been explained by the Army Secretary. As I have said before, we have been for years looking forward to something definite being done about the Indianization of the Indian army and it is very disappointing to me to find that on the first attempt that has been made to put it on a proper working basis, the opposition is so strong as it is. I know why the opposition has arisen, but I do not think my Honourable friends opposite have looked at the matter from a thoroughly practical and reasonable point of view. I know that there is this idea of inferiority and I also know what is in the minds of my Honourable friends opposite. But how is that position to be got over ? It is impossible to get over it at the present moment and we cannot assume to ourselves the prerogative of His Majesty the King in making regulations for the army. I do not think that the Indian Commissioned Officer may feel the slightest hesitation in going ahead with his career. I am perfectly satisfied that if he wishes the army as a career, then his training at Dehra Dun and afterwards for

the next two or three years—if he is fitted to be an officer in the army—will enable him to earn a status and position in the Indian army with which he will be perfectly satisfied. Sir, I support the motion that the Bill be passed.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am not one of those who have come to this Assembly with the avowed object of opposing the Government. My creed is not to oppose every motion that is brought forward by the Government in this Assembly. On the other hand, I am one of those who have supported even some very stringent legislative measures which were brought forward by the Government in the Assembly, because I honestly thought that the preservation of peace was in the interests of the country and the progress of our country would be retarded if there was chaos in it. Sir, if on this occasion I deem it my duty to rise and oppose the passage of this Bill (Applause), I am sure, it will not be considered as the speech of one whose habitual practice it is to oppose every measure which is proposed by the Government. It must have been after giving my very serious consideration to the matter, and it must be for very cogent reasons that I rise this afternoon to oppose the passage of the Bill. Sir, the question of army in India is undoubtedly a very difficult one. We fully realise that our land as well as our sea frontiers are very huge and very big, and, therefore, it is extremely necessary that we must have a well-trained and contented army in this country.

Now, Sir, we have to see what would be the result of passing this measure? What would be the result of putting this Bill on the Statute-book of the country? Will it give us a well-trained and contented army in India? I say emphatically no. If this Bill is passed and is put on the Statute-book, I am sure, there will be discontent in the Indian army from one end of the country to the other. We can play with the civil officers. We can reduce their pay and still we can get a very large number of qualified Indians to join the service under the Crown. But if there is discontent in the army and if the Indian army officer is not satisfied, I think, it will be a bad day for India as well as for the British Empire as a whole. Now, Sir, what are the chief disabilities which the present Bill is imposing on the army in India? My friend, Mr. Morgan, has just referred to the question of Indianisation of the army. He says that he is very anxious that there must be rapid Indianization of the army in this country. Well, if this Bill is put on the Statute-book, I submit that the pace of the Indianization of the army will certainly be retarded. Under the present scheme of things there are 16 King's Commissioned Officers and 18 Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. If this Bill is put on the Statute-book, the Viceroy's Commissioned officers will be eliminated altogether and unless you double the number of the King's Commissioned officers in the army in India, the pace of Indianization will certainly be retarded. Will my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, satisfy me that they will immediately double number of the Indian Commissioned Officers if they eliminate the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers? They cannot do that. Therefore, it will take twice as much time to Indianise the army if this Bill is passed, as it would have taken if the present state of things had continued.

An Honourable Member : Why?

Sir Muhammad Yakub : Because you have got an equal number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers which will now be eliminated. The number of the Indian officers in the army would have been doubled, but now it will be reduced. My second objection is that the present Bill will make the Indian army more costly. We know that India, in the matter of taxation, has reached the limit of its capacity and we have been complaining every year that the expenditure on the army is increasing and it must go down. It was, as a result of the pressure which was brought by this House on Government, and also as a result of the Army Retrenchment Committee that some reduction in the army expenditure was made during the last two years. But by the introduction of the new scheme, I think that the army expenditure will increase. Now, these 16 Viceroy's Commissioned officers have got their pay ranging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 250 a month. Under the present scheme all the Indian army officers will draw Rs. 300 and more. If you have the same number of Indian officers as you have now, including the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, then certainly the salary of these officers will be much higher than it is today. (The Army Secretary nodded dissent.) I am right because the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer is now getting a smaller salary and when you have the Indian Commissioned Officers they will all be getting Rs. 300 and more. So, the result would be that either you will have to reduce the number of Indian officers or you will have to increase financial burden on the country. My third objection is that the Viceroy's Commissioned officer now works as a link between the rank and file and the British officer. In a foreign country like India, where the traditions, the language, the habits and everything of the rank and file are different from the commander of the regiment, it is extremely necessary that there must be a connecting link between the officer and the rank and file. By eliminating the Viceroy's Commissioned officer you remove this link. It will be a very dangerous thing in the army that there will not be that direct communication between the officer and the men in the rank and file.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Viceroy's Commissioned Officers will not disappear from the regiments in which there are still junior British Officers.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : It seems to me that the idea of the British Government is to create two hostile armies in India. 4 P.M. (Hear, hear.) The idea seems to be that there should be an Indian army officered by Indian officers only and side by side with them there must be a British army officered by the British officers. If that is the idea, then you will have two different hostile armies in the country. and at the slightest provocation, I do not know what will be the result if these two hostile armies come into conflict with each other. Certainly when there will be resentment among the Indian army, when the officers of the Indian army will consider that their status and position is lower than the status and position of their brother British Officers, certainly there will be a feeling of inferiority in their minds and on the slightest provocation, I am afraid, these two armies will come into collision with each other and woe unto the day when such a thing happens. I have never seen a more loyal Indian officer than Major Akbar Khan, who is now a Member of the Council of State. He himself narrated to me his own story, that although he was a senior officer he was once asked to salute a British junior officer because he happened to be a British officer. My friend, Major Akbar Khan, refused to salute him and he resigned his post.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar : Question.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : The question is answered in the affirmative. Another defect of this Bill, as I have just said, is that it eliminates the Viceroy's Commissioned officers and by doing so it deprives many a young man of noble and respectable families in India, from serving in the Army, many a noble man of martial spirit in India who, either on account of educational disqualification or financial difficulties, cannot join Dehra Dun, these young men are deprived of their opportunities of becoming Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. Sir, there are many noble families in India whose sons are not very well educated but still they have proved very loyal to the Government and they belong to martial classes and by eliminating the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer, you deprive the British Government of their services and you deprive these young men from serving their King and their country. Another very serious objection to the Bill is that it will segregate the Indian officer from the British officer. When you reduce the pay of the Indian officer, he will not be in a position to join his European brother cadets in the mess or in society. He will not have sufficient means to give social entertainments or to join with his British brothers on terms of equality in social life.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

In this way the very idea of giving that training to the Indian officer which a British officer has in Sandhurst would go away. I am really very sorry why we pressed for the Dehra Dun Institute. I think India was much better off when we could send a small number of our youths to Sandhurst who came out with the same education, with the same training and with the same status as the British officer had. It is no use having glorified Jamadars, glorified Risaldars and call them Captains and Brigadier-Generals when they have not got the status of a Captain or a Brigadier-General. We have got an Honorary Captain in the person of my Honourable friend, Sher Muhammad Khan.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar : I am not an Honorary Captain. You are an Honorary Knight.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : There are certain Honorary Captains. I am very sorry for having used the expression Honorary Captain with reference to my Honourable friend. I thought he was an Honorary Captain because he was behaving like one.

I also contend that there is no justification for reducing the salary of the Indian officer. If there is no distinction in the salary of Indians and English men belonging to the Indian Civil Service or in any other service in the country, I do not think there can be any justification for giving to the Indian officer in the army a smaller salary than what the British officer gets. Does it mean that the life of an Indian officer is cheaper than the life of a British officer? It has been suggested that, probably, the British soldier would not like to receive command from an Indian officer. If European officers, belonging to the Indian Civil Service, could take orders from my Honourable friend, Mian Abdul Aziz, who happens to be a Commissioner, having under him European Deputy Commissioners, I cannot understand why British soldiers should refuse to receive command from my Honourable friend, Captain Sher Muhammad Khan?

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab : Sikh) : Because the British soldier never betrays his comrade just as Captain Sher Muhammad Khan has done today.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : Probably his friends will give him a reply for that. These are all very serious questions of policy and my great objection to this Bill is that it is more than two years since the Dehra Dun College was started, why were the Government sleeping during all these two years and why did they not bring this measure before a full Assembly ? Why, at the last moment, when most of the Non-Official Members of the Assembly are away on account of their election campaign, a measure of such a great importance as this has been brought before the Assembly ? I am sure that the Bill will be passed by this Assembly because we have not got even half the number of Non-Official Members present, but the Government must realise the seriousness of the situation. It is quite a different thing to pass ordinary Bills and place them on the Statute-book, but Government must realise what would be the result if there is resentment in the army in India which is the back-bone of the British Government in this country. The Government has altogether to rely upon the Indian army in this country, and if there is dissatisfaction and discontent in the army, I am sorry to say that the result would be very disastrous for both the countries, that is for India and for the British Empire. So I earnestly appeal to Government that they will listen to the warning given by a sincere friend and will not rely on the official votes in their pocket and that they will not precipitate the passing of a measure which is very likely to endanger the safety and progress of our country. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : Sir, the discussion of this Bill in which the amendment of my Honourable and esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, has given full scope for Honourable Members on this side to talk arrant nonsense, has served one good purpose at least, and that is that it has concentrated the country's attention on the future position of our Indian officers in our Indian army. It will also have made it perfectly plain to the British Government and to the British people the very strong feeling which is prevalent in this country against any element of superiority or inferiority of our officers *vis-a-vis* the British officers being in any way enacted into our military law. Sir, when I said that Honourable friends on this side had been talking arrant nonsense, I would make an exception in the case of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : On a point of order, Sir. Can an Honourable Member say that other Honourable Members have been talking arrant nonsense ? Is that a parliamentary expression ?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The language is strong, but it is not unparliamentary.

Mr. B. Das : I will take advantage of that, Sir.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, warned Government against creating any feeling of resentment or discontent among the future Indian officers. If, unfortunately, Government do anything which gives rise to any such discontent or resentment among our future Indian officers, I also warn Government that the results are bound to be deplorable. There is, however, not a single word

in this Bill which would, directly or indirectly, explicitly or implicitly, suggest that any racial discrimination is attempted by the law which is proposed to be passed in this House today.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Will the Army Secretary say so ?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : He has already said that. There is not one word about racial discrimination in this whole Bill. (Interruption by Mr. Yamin Khan.) If my Honourable friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, does not understand English..... (The rest of the sentence was drowned in laughter.)

Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Indian Army Act, and, before 1918, it was explicitly stated that the Act refers to the native Indian army alone. Out of deference to men like my friend, Mr. Das, who is ashamed to call himself a native of India (*Mr. B. Das :* "When ?"), the word "native" was eliminated but it is perfectly plain that this Act refers to the Indian army and the Indian army alone.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : But the Chair has ruled that the word "Indian" is to be understood in the territorial sense and not in the racial sense.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : Then it is said that this Bill seeks to discriminate between the commission which is to be given to our future Indian officer and the King's commission which is given to the British officer. Now, I challenge my Honourable friends on this side to point me out one word in the whole Bill which talks of the creation of any such commission. The commissions are created by the royal prerogative, and, in accordance with the Statute law made by the British Parliament, and this Bill cannot and does not deal with the creation of commissions. Sir, the Army Secretary in his very lucid speech has answered all the relevant arguments, if there were any, from this side of the House and I am not going to repeat what the Army Secretary stated. But I must point out, Sir, that this Bill raises a constitutional question of the very first importance. When my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, talked of the British army leaving India, some of my friends were laughing. I must say their laugh was very foolish, because it has been the declared policy of the British Government that the British army should leave India.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Sidney : Where is that ?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : If you want to look for it, you will find it in the Simon Commission's report. (Laughter.) That has been the declared policy of the British Government ; but there is one condition. In the interests of this country, if the British army has to depart from India, the British army must be replaced by an equally efficient Indian army. Till an equally efficient Indian army replaces the British troops here, it is common sense, it is in the interests of this country, that the British army should not depart. But, Sir, that, I say, raises a constitutional question of the highest importance. Is it the contention of the opponents of self-government for India that so long as there is not an efficient Indian army, so long India shall not have self-government ? Sir, the question has been answered by the Simon Commission on behalf of the British Government. They say, in so many words, that the British troops cannot be expected to serve as mere mercenaries in India under the Indian Government when India does get self-government, and they must depart. But they can be allowed to depart in the interests of this country only, as I said, when an

[Mr. N. N. Anklesaria.]

efficient Indian Army can replace them ; and steps are being taken, for a number of years, to create an efficient Indian army which would replace the British Army in India. The question then arises only for the transitional period during which the British army or a portion of it at least should remain in India. In this connection, I cannot do better than read a few lines from the Simon Commission's Report which clearly states the position.....

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : Is it the declared policy of the Government ?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Do not quote from the dead.

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : They say :

“ But apart from this, the experiment of Indianisation has not yet advanced nearly far enough to justify so considerable a departure from established organisation, and very serious questions would remain to be considered and answered as to the effect of combining the service of two kinds of military forces raised and controlled by two different authorities. Neither British politicians nor Indian politicians can wisely decide such matters without special knowledge and expert advice. We are only concerned here to convey a double warning—a warning, on the one hand, that Britain cannot indefinitely treat the present military organisation of India as sacrosanct and unalterable, but must make an active endeavour to search for such adjustments as might be possible ; and a warning, on the other hand, that Indian statesmen can help to modify the existing arrangement in the direction of self-government only if they too will co-operate by facing the hard facts and by remembering that those who set them out for further consideration are not glouting over obstacles, but are offering the help of friends to Indian aspirations.”

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But has all this been accepted by the Government ?

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : The policy of *adjustment* which is spoken of by the Simon Commission is being implemented by the present measure. In the interests of our country we must heed the other warning given by the Simon Commission : we must face hard facts. The army exists, if it exists at all, to carry out the purposes for which an army exists, and a paramount consideration as regards the army is its military efficiency ; and anything which in any way retards or impairs military efficiency should not receive any encouragement from this House. As I said, most of this discussion was irrelevant for the purposes of this Bill ; and it was somewhat due to the statements of the Honourable the Army Secretary about his intentions for the future, as to what he was going to do or what the Government was going to do about the rights and privileges, rank and precedence of the future Indian officer *vis-a-vis* the British officer, that has been responsible for much of the irrelevant talk which has taken place in this House. We are concerned only with the contents of the present Bill. What is going to be done by the King's Regulations or by the Crown's prerogative with regard to fixing the rank and precedence of the future Indian officer *vis-a-vis* the British officer is, at present, no concern of this House, and cannot possibly be the concern of this House under the present Constitution.....

Mr. B. Das : You will not be here next year to interpret the function of this House.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why ? He can come as a Nominated Member ! (Laughter.)

Mr. N. N. Anklesaria : So far as this Bill goes, it places our Indian army under the control of this Indian Legislature. (*An Honourable Member :* "No.") It seeks to, if you pass it. But if you reject it, the result would be that the process of Indianisation would be retarded. I, therefore, ask this House not to chase mere shadows and mere appearances, but to grasp firmly the realities and pass this Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : Sir, it was in 1922 that I moved a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly for the Indianisation of the Indian Army ; and I laid down a definite process by which we could achieve, within 20 years, complete Indianisation of all Indian regiments. My scheme was that all recruitment of British officers to Indian regiments should stop and Indians should be given King's Commissions to fill up all the posts as they fell vacant. By this I intended that the Indian Lieutenants, when they joined the Indian Army, should be working under the British officers, getting their tradition, acquiring their habits, learning from them the manners and ways of conducting a war, and thus, by peaceful elimination and gradual development, we would have got a completely Indianised Indian Army in 22 years time. Unfortunately, that scheme of mine was not carried. When I made my speech on that afternoon just about this time, the Assembly adjourned for another day ; and the Army Secretary at that time—now Sir Ernest Burdon—came like a bolt from the blue and announced a scheme to Indianise eight units at once. That caused such a glamour in the minds of many supporters of mine that although in the beginning I was counting a great majority in my favour, the people who were caught by this sudden announcement and did not understand its real implications, all left me. The result was that although I was asked to withdraw my Resolution I did not do it. I challenged a division, and I got only 16 votes. I lost the vote of even Sir Hari Singh Gour, who was one of the prominent Members of the Democratic Party at that time. I am not speaking of the present Democratic Party. Although I lost my Resolution then, I stand today justified in challenging a division on that day. I said at that time that the Indian officers who would be working separately in separate units would be treated differently from those in other regiments and that they would resent it, and I did not accept even the Indianisation of eight units scheme as it fell too short. If you talk to the Indian officers you will know, and if the Army Secretary says he does not know, then it is his fault that he does not know the real feelings of those officers who are working in those regiments. I know the feeling of those officers. I had a talk with them and I know that they resent a great deal today that they are not being treated properly as the officers in other regiments are being treated. That, I felt, would be the greatest blow at the efficiency of the Indian army. When we are contemplating that we should have peace in the country which is dependent upon having a satisfied army, we must see that those conditions are present where our army officers feel contented and not have any kind of resentment in their minds. If Government fail to note it, that is not the fault of those friends of the Government who come and give a timely warning ; it is the fault of those who carry on the Government at the present day. By this Bill I say that what was granted even in 1922 is being taken away. No Indian worth his salt would ever agree to accept a position of inferiority for his fellow Indians simply because they happen to be Indians. The position today is that Government are making a distinction between Englishmen and Indians which

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

had never existed since the King's Commission was granted to Indians. The officers who will work under these conditions—may I ask whether they will feel contented when they go to the polo ground, when they go to the race course, when they go to the clubs—will they not find a different treatment to that meted out to their brother officers in other regiments ?

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar : No, no.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : He does not know because he has lived in a different category.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar : I have lived there more than my Honourable friend has done.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : I have never lived as an officer, but I know the feelings of those officers today, and I know what they are talking about. I can never agree to a discontented army being brought into existence in India. May I ask the Army Secretary whether or not an Indian who goes to England to be trained at Sandhurst enjoys the same rights and privileges as any British officer in the British regiments ? He does enjoy because he answered in the affirmative the question of my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, on the point. If he enjoys those privileges, which are being enjoyed by a British officer in the British regiment, are those advantages and privileges given by this Bill to Indians or are they going to be taken away ? That is the only issue before the House. The point is that whatever rights our boys who go to England to be educated at Sandhurst enjoy by getting the King's Commission will be taken away from them because they will not be allowed to go to England any more. They will not be educated at Sandhurst and they will not be given the King's Commission. They will be given something different and that different thing is stated in this Bill as the Indian commission. That Indian commission which is not the King's Commission.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : It is a King's Commission.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : It is Indian Commission given in the King's name. If it is a King's Commission, then what is the harm in my Honourable friend accepting the amendment of Sir Abdur Rahim ? If it is a King's Commission, then what is the hitch in accepting the amendment of Sir Abdur Rahim ? I think that it is going to be something different from what it is today, and if it is going to be something different, let us know what that is. If it is a King's Commission, then what is the whole trouble about ? The real point is that the Government and the War Office in England are not ready to concede to Indians the same rights and privileges which they are enjoying today. They fear that because the British officer enjoys a certain privilege in the Indian regiments by becoming an officer of the Indian regiment, the Indian officer can claim to be an officer in the British regiment, and that they do not want to allow. May I ask, if an Indian can sit as a Member of Parliament, if an Indian can be the Governor of a Province, or can sit as an Executive Councillor here, then why should they be treated differently only in this case when they are not being treated differently at present ? That is the only thing on which we have to give a decision. I would not like an institution to be created in this country which will not put the Indians on the same plane of equality and which will not allow them the privileges which they are enjoying today by going to Sandhurst.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald in his "Government of India" said that an Indian can become the Secretary of State for India, but I can tell my Honourable friend that it is much more difficult for an Indian to command British troops.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : My Honourable friend's mentality is there. He says that an Indian can become the Secretary of State for India but he cannot command the British troops. I say he does command today, he has got the right to command the British troops today, but by this Bill that right is being taken away. If my Honourable friend gives his vote for this Bill he will unconsciously give away that right.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : But that right always exists in King's temporary commissions even, as during the War they should be given to Indians.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : No. My Honourable friend does not know the thing at all. In the case of a mixed brigade where there would be an Indian regiment and a British regiment and the senior Colonel is an Indian who has been trained at Sandhurst, then he will get the command of the brigade and not the Colonel who may be a British officer, in charge of the British regiment, if he is junior to the Indian Colonel, and the Indian Colonel will command not only one regiment, but he will command the whole brigade.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : But such a situation can only arise 20 years hence.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : If it is going to arise only after 20 years, then why should not Government agree to this today and they will be quite safe for another 20 years. Why don't they agree today? The only issue at present is whether this House representing the country should say, well, my boys, we accept an inferior position for Indians in future. Is this the verdict that is going to be given by the elected representatives of India? Are Government justified in asking the elected representatives of India to accept an inferior position for the Indians for the emergency which will arise 20 years hence? If they knew that no Indian cadet, who comes out of Dehra Dun, will command for 20 years, then why did the Government oppose the amendment of Sir Abdur Rahim? It is a great pity that Government carried that amendment with the help of the officials who have got their lips sealed. If Government had given freedom to the Official Members to vote as they liked, I am quite sure that the Indian Official Members would have gone into the lobby with Sir Abdur Rahim. (Hear, hear.) It is a greater pity that Non-Official Indians, who were free to vote as they liked and were in no way bound to vote with the Government, voted with Government to serve their own personal interests. The more pitiable thing is that some Elected Members went to the Government lobby in order to flatter the Government. They must remember that they are doing great injury to the cause for which they are fighting. I say by creating this spirit and laying down this principle, Government is inviting opposition in the country and is inviting ridicule on the people who are supporting the Government. Government may glory that they have carried this amendment by three votes but really they have lost by 300 votes. The opposition in the country will drive away every supporter of the Government and they have given a weapon in the hands of the opposition in the country and they have

[Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

made this constitution ridiculous. People will think that Government control only a few votes of those people who were never intended to vote in this way in this House. It was never the intention that the nominations should be made on this basis, namely, whether a man will support the Government or not and if the Government has carried by three votes, let them not glory in it. I am one who has supported the Government in spite of the jeers of my friends opposite. I have stood like a rock on the side of the Government on the Ordinance Bill, the Reserve Bank Bill. I did not listen to their jeers. Here the question is whether Indians are going to accept an inferior position.

(Interruption by Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar.)

This gives you an inferior position in the eyes of the world. I can never tolerate a position if I am given an inferior status anywhere. If I can stand for election as a Member of Parliament and if in my own country I am going to be called as somebody inferior, nothing can be resented by me to a greater degree. That is the sense I feel. I do not know how my other friends are feeling. This is a most vital question which will affect the future administration. This will give a weapon in the hands of our opponents. Here is not a question of whether a few pennies will go into your pocket or whether they go into other men's pockets. This Bill is going to assign an inferior status to Indians in the future. That is a thing to which I cannot agree. This Bill takes away even the privileges which we enjoy at present and if the Government carries this Bill today, they will be inviting great trouble in the future for their supporters. Even great supporters of Government cannot see eye to eye with them in this matter.

Now, I shall refer to the practical difficulties. The Army Secretary said that the question of inferiority will not arise. I asked him a question which was never answered. That point is, if the Indian army is going to make an attack on the enemy and the seniormost brigade officer is killed, then if there is an Indian Regiment and a British Regiment working side by side, will the Indian Colonel take charge of the British army?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : On a point of order. Is not the Honourable Member going outside the rules of business when he suggests that India is about to make war on another nation?

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan : Indians are always fighting side by side with the British in India and outside India. Indians have shed their blood in India for the British Government and laid down their lives for the Empire outside India—in France, in Palestine and other countries. So I do not think my Honourable friend, the Foreign Secretary's interruption has anything to do with the speech I am making. I was putting the point, if this brigade officer is killed, then will this army wait till the orders are issued from headquarters? Who is going to take up the command? That command must be taken up at once. (Mr. Anklesaria wanted to interrupt.) Let me proceed with my argument. My Honourable friend, Mr. Anklesaria, is an *ultra*-loyalist. I do not know what he has got in his mind. If there is any delay in issuing orders, will it not jeopardise the tone, morale and lives of the army when the enemy is attacking? Is that demand to be met at once and the command orders

are to be given in a moment's time, or they are to wait till orders are issued, and thus that process may involve destruction of the whole army? If that is going to happen, where shall we stand? Are we going to be asked to vote for such a measure which will place the Indian Army and the Indian troops in such a position? At least I cannot agree to such a ridiculous position which may destroy the whole Army at once.

Then, another thing which the Honourable Member has not taken into consideration is this. He is cutting away the relations between the British units and the Indian units. If the British units feel that they are not equal to the Indian units and if the Indian officer in the Indian units does not feel that he is equal to the British officer, then there can never exist that comradeship which we all desire. I want that there should be such love and friendship between them that each type of officer will be ready to lay down his life for the other regiment, as has happened in the past. Sir, I want that the Indian officer should feel so friendly for the British officer and *vice versa* that, in time of need, each must work for the safety of the other and in full co-operation. (Hear, hear.) But here one will be smarting under a feeling that he is inferior to the other, and that will take away the spirit of full comradeship and you are bringing in a kind of sarcasm and opposition in the country for the British regiments. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer, is opposed to the proposal. He wants to drive away all the British units from India today! I do not know whether he means seriously or whether he wants to take up this attitude of opposition only in order to take shelter behind it to give his vote in a particular manner. I think he is an honest man, and I trust as an honest man he will act. If he sincerely thinks that within twenty years the British regiments will be driven away from India, he is mistaken. Sir, the British regiments cannot be driven out of India for twenty years, and, therefore, we have to take up the position which we have taken today, and if that position is to be taken today, this contention here is simply because a few persons sitting in the War Office do not agree. Sir, if the life and the prestige and the honour of the British soldier in the Indian Army cannot be entrusted to Indians, how then can the lives of Indian soldiers be entrusted to British people? (Hear, hear.) By using one word, my friend will have twenty words from his opponents; he is not serving the country properly, he is not serving the right cause. Sir, true friends are those who give proper advice at the proper time even though that advice may not be so sweet as the people think it ought to be. Sometimes the advice which has to be tendered is very very harsh, but that is for the good of the people, and I stand here, Sir, to give that advice. I do not think that this Bill will serve any useful purpose or will do any good. We were asked—what will happen to the boys coming out of Dehra Dun? I say—give them the King's Commission, send them to England for two months, give them training and bring them to a level of equality, and bring them out on equal terms, then introduce a proper Bill, with proper safeguards, and I still want proper safeguards since the British Army and the Indian Army must go on side by side. With these words, Sir, I oppose the motion.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, at the start I should like to refer to a few matters which are rather outside the main question with which we have been dealing today, but which arise out of the speech of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub. The pace of Indianization was one of the main things with which he dealt. I want to explain, first of all, that the figure of sixty which is to be the outturn of the Dehra Dun Academy has been fixed on the basis of the one division of all arms and including ancillary services which, as has been announced by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, is to be Indianized as the next step in carrying out the policy of Indianization. The figure of sixty is one that could not possibly have been accepted at Sandhurst, and so if Indianization was to be extended, there was no question but that it would be necessary either to stop sending Indian cadets to Sandhurst altogether, or to have an Indian Academy and at the same time to send a small number of cadets to Sandhurst. The Indian Military College Committee decided that the latter course would be most undesirable, because there would almost certainly be an inferiority or superiority complex as between the two classes of officer. They decided that it would be much the best to have all Indian cadets trained in future for all branches of the army at an academy in India, instead of at Woolwich and Sandhurst.

It was also stated that under the new proposals units of the Indian army would cost more than they do now. This will not be the case. I want to make it clear that, as was pointed out by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to the Indian Military College Committee, if we were to give the rates of pay, which we now give to the Sandhurst-trained officer, to the Indian Commissioned officer, it would be perfectly true to say that the cost of Indian units, when Indianized, would be greater than at present ; but just as it is proposed in the case of most of the civil services to fix the rates of pay of new entrants on an Indian basis, so it has been decided to fix the pay of future Indian entrants into the Indian Army on an Indian basis, and the difference between the pay of the British officer and the Indian officer will represent a sort of overseas allowance. With the reduction of rates of pay, I can assure the House that Government intend to do everything they possibly can to ensure that the standard of living of the officers who come out of Dehra Dun is not forced up unnecessarily by their predecessors and that they are able to live on their pay.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Why then is not the pay of the British Officer similarly reduced ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : That is a different matter. During their first year, after passing out of the Academy, these young officers will be attached to British units in this country, and, during that attachment, they will receive an extra allowance to enable them to meet the extra cost of living.

As regards the point raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, about the elimination of the Viceroy's Commissioned officers, the point is that in the units that are being Indianised there will be no need of a link such as the Viceroy's Commissioned officers provide, and provide most efficiently, between the British officer and the rank and file. The officers of the Indianized units will ultimately be all of the same race, and no link will be necessary in their case ; but, so long as there are non-

Indianized regiments, the Viceroy's Commissioned officers will remain in those regiments to act as a link.

It was suggested by one speaker that Government had been guilty of a breach of faith over the Skeen Committee's Report. It was stated that the Indian Military Academy arose out of that Report, and various sections of it were quoted as though they had been accepted by Government just as the proposal to start an Indian Military Academy has since been accepted by Government. The Skeen Committee Report, in so far as it related to an Indian Sandhurst and to the abolition of the eight Indianising units, was not accepted by Government because even at that time they had in mind the necessity, when they did establish an Indian Military College, of introducing the new form of commission which is now proposed. It was quite clear that, sooner or later, it would be necessary to introduce the Dominion form of commission, and, after very careful consideration, Government held that the correct moment at which to introduce it was when the very first batch of cadets passed out of the Academy. Otherwise you will merely have the same condition to which objection is now taken, but at a later period, the only difference being that there will be a distinction or a supposed distinction, between Indian and Indian instead of between British and Indian.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Will

5 P.M.

the Honourable Member be pleased to refer to section 40 of the Canadian Act regarding the militia and defence and point out in what respect the position laid down there differs from the position which would arise under the present Bill ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : May I have a copy of it ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Yes. That section is very germane to the discussion.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, pointed out that the analogy of the Dominions was a faulty one. That fact I myself pointed out in my previous speech. We can only carry the analogy of the Dominions up to a particular point. But, as I have already said, the change of the form of Commission had to be made at some particular moment—either when the Dominion stage is reached or before, and it was considered that the moment when the first batch of cadets passed out of the Academy was the best moment to make it. Now, Sir, as regards the question of inferiority and superiority, I have stressed the point, and stress it again, that within the Indian army there is not to be any difference between the King's Commissioned officers in His Majesty's Land Forces and the King's Commissioned officers in His Majesty's Indian Land Forces, and the fact that the British officer and the Indian officer will be on the same level in the Indian army will, I think, have a great effect in quelling any suggestion that there is a difference between the Indian Commissioned officer of the Indian army and the British officer of the British army.

I admit that ultimately we shall have the difficulty of mixed formations upon which my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has laid so much stress, but I am absolutely convinced that there can never be any question of the junior British officer being placed in command over a senior Indian officer. It seems to me that there are only two alternatives—either the senior Indian officer will be given command or else we have

[Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby.]

got to abolish mixed brigades. The mixed brigade is not a necessity at all. Last summer, for instance, on the North-West Frontier, there were two purely Indian brigades operating and there is no reason why this difficulty should not be got over when it arises 20 or 25 years hence. As regards war, the position is not provided for as regards the Dominions at the present time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : There, again, my Honourable friend is wrong as he will find out if he refers to that very Act which I have placed before him. Will my Honourable friend now read out section 40.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Section 40 runs thus :

“ The Governor in Council may make regulations, applying to officers and others belonging to His Majesty's regular forces, and to officers of any military force of any part of His Majesty's dominions, when serving in Canada, and to officers of the militia, as to the persons to be invested as officers or otherwise with command over the militia or any part thereof, or any person belonging thereto, and as to the mode in which such command is to be exercised : Provided that command shall not be given to any person over a person superior in rank to himself.”

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is my Honourable friend prepared to accept provision to that effect as a part of this Bill ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : No, I am not prepared to do that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Then why mention Canada as an analogy ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I understood the analogy to be correct and I am not certain that I am wrong. To get back to war, in time of war it is essential that there should be some means of regulating powers of command as there was in the Great War. The position of the officers of the British army, the officers of the Dominions and the Indian Commissioned officers.....

Mr. K. C. Neogy : As I said, my Honourable friend is again wrong here if he will refer to subsequent sections of the Canadian Act.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : You cannot run an army in water-tight compartments. An army must be efficient or you might as well disband it. I can assure this House that this scheme has been worked out with efficiency as the main object. I have been connected with this question of Indianization for the best part of ten years and I have seen many schemes prepared for bringing about the results of which it is proposed to lay the foundation in this Bill, and I have not been able to find one in which more holes could not be picked than can be picked in the present one. I am quite prepared to admit that the proposal is not a perfect one, but this is a very difficult matter. Some arrangement has got to be made to cover what was referred to by an Honourable Member as the transitional period. After all, it is the Commander-in-Chief who has got to administer the army and it is for him primarily to see that the army is contented and efficient. The Commander-in-Chief has given his approval to this scheme and we may take it, therefore, that scheme is a perfectly good and workable one which will not lead to the troubles which some Honourable Members anticipate. That is the note on which I want to end. Efficiency has been the key-word of the consideration of this whole matter and the arrangements that are proposed can be made to work efficiently, provided that the Indian officer coming out of Dehra Dun is not started off with the idea that he has got to have an inferiority complex. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911, for certain purposes, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—51.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Ali, Mr. Hamid A.
Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Malik.
Anklesaria, Mr. N. N.
Bagla, Lala Rameshwar Prasad.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bhadrapur, Rao Bahadur Krishna Raddi B.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Buss, Mr. L. C.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Dugud, Mr. A.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Grantham, Mr. S. G.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema Mr.
Lal Chand, Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lee, Mr. D. J. N.
Lumby, Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R.

Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mujumdar, Sardar G. N.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Perry, Mr. E. W.
Raisman, Mr. A. J.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Ramakrishna, Mr. V.
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.
Rastogi, Rai Sahib Badri Lal.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Richards, Mr. W. J. C.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar, Captain Singh, Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra Spence, Mr. G. H.
Studd, Mr. E.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Zakaullah Khan, Khan Bahadur Abu Abdullah Muhammad.
Zyn-ud-din, Khan Bahadur Mir.

NOES—48.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdur Rahim, Sir.
Aggarwal, Mr. Jagan Nath.
Ahmed, Mr. K.
Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Maung, U
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.
Bhuput Singh, Mr.
Chinoy, Mr. Bahimtoola M.
Das, Mr. B.
Dudhoria, Mr. Nabakumar Singh.
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.
Gunjal, Mr. N. R.
Hari Raj Swarup, Lala.
Hoon, Mr. A.
Ibrahim Ali Khan, Lieut. Nawab Muhammad.
Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwar Hajee.
Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury Muhammad.
Isra, (Chaudhri).
Jadhav, Mr. B. V.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jog, Mr. S. G.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liladhar Chaudhury, Seth.
Mahapatra, Mr. Sitakanta.
Maswood Ahmad, Mr. M.
Mody, Mr. H. P.
Murtuza Saheb Bahadur, Maulvi Sayyid.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pandian, Mr. B. Rajaram.
Pandya, Mr. Vidya Sagar.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Patil, Rao Bahadur B. L.
Raghubir Singh, Rai Bahadur Kunwar.
Reddi, Mr. P. G.
Reddi, Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna.
Roy, Rai Bahadur Sukhranj.
Sadiq Hasan, Shaikh.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sen, Mr. S. C.
Shafee Daoodi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.
Uppi Saheb Bahadur, Mr.
Wilayatullah, Khan Bahadur H. M.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN TARIFF BILL.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this Bill has become necessary because the different Tariff duties are now to be found in a very large number of enactments. Since the Tariff Act of 1894 was passed, there have been various amendments and extensions and so on, and the whole object of this Bill is to put all of them together so that they could be conveniently found and we may have a self-contained Act. As a matter of fact the position at the present moment is such that anyone desiring to know what is the duty on a particular item has got to seek his guidance from a manual which has been issued. The present Bill does not involve any change in the present law and I do not think I will be justified in taking up the time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I take this opportunity to offer the thanks of the House to the person who thought of this idea of putting the Tariff Act in an arranged form, because it has been a source of very great trouble to every one of us who wanted to consult the Tariff Act. I should like to add one word, that, if it be possible, we may have an index attached to this Act. I hope the Honourable Member will take this point also into consideration when the Act finally goes to the press. With these words, I support the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Third Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

I can assure my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin, that I shall certainly consider if an index can be added for the convenience of people who have got to find out the various duties from the Schedules.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair would remind the House that His Excellency the Governor General has summoned the attendance of Honourable Members tomorrow here at 11 o'clock, and the House will meet again for the transaction of business at 2-30 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned till Half Past Two of the Clock on Wednesday, the 29th August, 1934.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 29th August, 1934.

SPEECH DELIVERED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

His Excellency the Viceroy having arrived in procession with the Presidents of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly took his seat on the Dais at Eleven of the Clock.

His Excellency The Viceroy : Gentlemen, in greeting Honourable Members this morning after my short holiday, I need hardly tell you how delighted I am to be amongst you once again, to find you still engaged in your strenuous labours on behalf of India, and to take this opportunity of thanking you all for the assistance you have given to my Government during the past four years in passing into law the many very important measures that have been brought before you during the period of the life of this Parliament which will shortly be coming to a close.

In a message communicated to you on the 6th March, 1933, I announced my decision to extend the duration of the existing Assembly for such period as might seem expedient in the light of the conditions prevailing when the time came actually to effect the extension, and on the 22nd December, 1933, I announced an extension up to the 31st December, 1934. The question whether the duration of the Assembly should be further extended beyond that date required and received my anxious consideration, and I finally reached the conclusion, the propriety of which has, I am glad to believe, been very generally recognised, that in all the circumstances of the case no further extension should be granted.

I am sure that you would wish, and here I can speak with all sincerity on behalf of my Honourable Colleagues, that I should express to the two Presidents my grateful thanks for the fairness and judgment with which they have guided the discussions in both Chambers and have secured the trust and confidence of every Honourable Member.

It is my custom on this occasion to give a general survey of the work done during the past year and of the economic and political condition of our country at the present time, and further to tell you as far as I can the outlook for the future.

In the sphere of Foreign Affairs I am glad to state that India's relations with her neighbours continue to be uniformly satisfactory. On the frontier between Burma and China incidents occurred last spring threatening a disturbance of the peace among the partially administered tribes, which in that area separate

the Province of Burma from the Chinese Province of Yunnan. The international frontier in that area has never been demarcated and this circumstance coupled with the fact that there are no maps which have been accepted by both Governments as accurate, encouraged certain irresponsible persons to engage in hostile activities against the Burma Military Police, although the latter had scrupulously refrained from penetrating beyond the line claimed by the Chinese Government. That force effectively demonstrated their ability to deal with these marauders and no operations have been necessary during the last few weeks. Efforts are being made by His Majesty's Representative in China to establish, in agreement with the Chinese Government, certain principles upon which it will be possible to demarcate the international frontier and thus to find a solution for a long-standing disagreement. Events in Chinese Turkistan have caused my Government some anxiety, since as the result of a serious revolt against Chinese authority in Kashgar and the neighbourhood, security of life and property were for some time gravely endangered. I regret to say that some loss of life and property were caused to peaceful Indian traders in spite of the unremitting efforts of His Majesty's Consul-General to secure their protection. On one occasion His Majesty's Consulate at Kashgar was attacked by Tungán* rebels, and it was only the gallant defence offered by the British and Indian *personnel* which saved the Consulate from more than a few casualties. The Chinese Government have expressed their deep regret for this occurrence and have also officially acknowledged the correctness of the Consul-General's attitude of strict neutrality towards the various factions which have from time to time secured control over this area. The latest news received is much more reassuring in that the Chinese forces together with a Pacification Commissioner entrusted with the task of restoring law and order have now reached Kashgar and are engaged in re-establishing Chinese authority. Some embarrassment has also been caused by the influx of refugees from Russia and from Chinese Turkistan who were able to enter India *via* Gilgit before they could be intercepted. These persons were for the most part completely destitute and were frequently accompanied by women and children, whose re-expulsion across the inhospitable mountains of Central Asia was repugnant to humanitarian principles. It is however obvious that the comparative security of conditions in India might encourage this influx to a dangerous extent and steps are therefore being taken to check it at the frontier, and it is also hoped to arrange for the disposal of a number of the refugees already in India by despatching them to other parts of the world.

Our neighbourly relations with Afghanistan have not been threatened by any untoward incidents on the frontier in recent months, and it is hoped to secure increased trade between the two countries as the result of the recent visit of a Trade Delegation to Kabul in April last. This Delegation consisted of Mr. W. W. Nind as Leader and Lala Shri Ram, Merchant of Delhi, and Khan Bahadur Syed Maratib Ali of Lahore as Members, and was sent to Afghanistan to examine, in consultation with informed opinion in that country, the directions in which it might be possible to foster and expand the mutual trade between India and Afghanistan. The report submitted by this Delegation is still under

*Pronounced "Toonga(r)n".

consideration, but it is gratifying to observe the interest taken by Indian merchants and traders in the Commercial Exhibition which is now taking place in that city.

The North-West Frontier has remained uniformly peaceful during the last eight months except for the various unimportant disputes between sections of the tribes and a few small encounters between Government forces and hostile individuals, which have always been a feature of frontier administration. I need not say that cordial relations, as ever, continue to be maintained with our ancient Ally, the Kingdom of Nepal. As a fitting culmination of the long-standing friendship that we have enjoyed with that country, His Majesty the King Emperor has been pleased to raise the status of the British Envoy to that of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Nepalese Court, and also to receive a Minister of corresponding rank from the Kingdom of Nepal at the Court of St. James in London.

A great figure on the stage of Asia passed away with the death of His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet on December 17th, 1933. The late Dalai Lama, the thirteenth of his line, had always remained on terms of amity with my Government and the Regent who has been appointed in his place pending the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama continues to act in the spirit of the Ruler of Tibet.

Lastly, I am glad to take this opportunity of acknowledging the keen and effective interest which Members of this Assembly have always taken in the welfare of Indian traders and settlers in foreign countries. There has been more than one case recently in which a foreign country has attempted to enforce, particularly in its colonies, what appeared to us to be unwarranted restrictions upon such Indian traders, who have by their enterprise and commercial ability contributed largely to the wealth and prosperity of the place concerned. My Government have in every case protested vigorously through His Majesty's Government against such proceedings and, if, as has happened in more than one case, their protests have been successful, this is very largely due to the hearty support they have received from Indian public opinion as represented by the Honourable Members of this House.

In connection with external commercial relations I would recall to your minds that when I last addressed you I mentioned the circumstances leading to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905 and the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933. Applications for assistance under the Act were received from a number of small Indian Industries. These were carefully examined, but eventually Government decided that it would be undesirable to use the Act, since such a step would have prejudiced the negotiations for a commercial agreement with Japan which had then started. At the same time the needs of these industries were met, where necessary, in another manner. This was by the imposition of minimum specific duties on the articles concerned. The imposition of these duties was secured by *ad hoc* legislation,—the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1934,—and in fixing the level of these duties, which were applicable to the imports from all foreign countries, due consideration was given to the necessity of adequately safeguarding the Indian industry concerned, while avoiding, as far as possible, any increase in the *ad valorem* incidence of the duties on goods the competition from which did not constitute a danger to Indian industries.

The question of the grant of substantive protection to the Cotton Textile Industry in India, which was the subject of a Tariff Board enquiry in 1932, came up for your consideration in the last Delhi Session. I need not refer to the details of the legislative measure with which you were then concerned except to point out that for the second time statutory effect has been given to a rapprochement between the representatives of an Indian and a British Industry. My Government and I attach the highest importance to the creation of closer ties between the industrialists in India and in the United Kingdom and, consonant with the interests of the country as a whole, we shall always be prepared to consider sympathetically any agreement intended to promote the mutual interests of the parties concerned.

In accordance with the undertaking given when the Ottawa Trade Agreement was under consideration, an exhaustive report of the first year's working of the scheme of mutual preferences has been prepared and is now in your hands. I understand that this report is now under consideration by Committees of both Houses of the Legislature, and I shall not, therefore, comment further upon it.

When the Indian Delegation led by Sir Atul Chatterjee was at Ottawa certain tentative approaches were made by representatives of other countries within the Commonwealth with a view to the conclusion of further trade agreements. The Irish Free State has followed up their preliminary proposals and formal negotiations between India and the Free State were initiated in May last. These negotiations, at which Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir George Rainy represented India, have not yet been concluded.

During the course of my address to you in August last year I made a brief reference to the denunciation of the Anglo-Japanese Commercial Convention of 1905, and the negotiations for a fresh Commercial Agreement with Japan. As you are aware, these negotiations commenced in Simla on the 23rd September, 1933, and after lengthy discussions agreement was reached between the Indian and the Japanese Delegations in January, 1934. The agreement of views thus reached was embodied in a Convention and Protocol, the agreed drafts of which were initialled by the two delegations on the 19th April, 1934, and finally signed, on behalf of India and Japan, in London on the 12th July, 1934.

The Convention, and with it the Protocol, are to come into force immediately after the exchange of ratifications and will remain in force until the 31st March, 1937. The provisions in the Protocol relating to the restriction of the imports of cotton piece-goods from Japan have, however, been given effect to with effect from the 8th January, 1934, from which date the Government of India reduced the import duty on Japanese cotton piece-goods to the level of that provided for in the Agreement.

The Agreement, while ensuring the continuance of the long-established trade connections between the two countries on a basis satisfactory to both, safeguards also the legitimate interests of the Cotton Textile Industry in India and at the same time secures a stable market for a substantial portion of the exportable surplus of raw cotton produced in India. This, at a time of acute

agricultural distress, should prove invaluable to the cotton growers in India who have been so seriously affected by the world depression.

You will remember that in 1930 the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, sanctioned a scheme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in certain foreign countries with a view to promote the export trade of India with those countries. In addition to the existing appointment of Indian Trade Commissioner, London, the scheme provided for six appointments, one each at Hamburg, Milan, New York, Alexandria, Durban and Mombassa. The office at Hamburg was opened in March, 1931, and an officer for the Milan post was selected on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. Further progress with the scheme was held in abeyance on grounds of financial stringency, the officer selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan being retained in the Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Department for a period of training. Among plans for the encouragement of the economic development of the country my Government have, however, now decided to resume the programme for the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries. As a first step in that direction, it has been decided to open the office of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Italy as soon as possible, and with this object Mr. M. R. Ahuja, who was selected for the post in 1931, has been sent to London for a short period of training in the Trade Department of the High Commissioner's Office before taking charge of his new appointment in Italy. The question of the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners at other places will receive the early consideration of the Government of India.

Whilst still on the subject of affairs which involve contact with the outer world, there are two further matters of interest relating to Indians overseas to which I wish briefly to allude. I refer, in the first place, to the Report of the Colonisation Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which was published both in South Africa and in this country early in July. The Government have been closely studying the reactions of public opinion in this country to the recommendations of the Committee. They have also ascertained the views on the Report of the Standing Emigration Committee of the two Houses of the Indian Legislature. They hope to be able, shortly, to address the Government of the Union of South Africa on this matter. In formulating their conclusions it will be their endeavour to serve the best interests of the Indian community in South Africa.

The second event, to which Honourable Members will expect some reference, is the situation which has arisen in Zanzibar as the result of recent legislation my Government had no previous intimation that such legislation was contemplated, and the time available between its introduction and enactment was inadequate for the effects of the various decrees on Indian interests in Zanzibar to be adequately studied and represented. Therefore, early this month, we deputed an officer to Zanzibar to make investigations. On receipt of his report the Government of India will consider what further action they should take. Honourable Members may be satisfied that in this, as in other matters concerning the legitimate interests of Indian communities overseas, the Government of India will strive their utmost to uphold them.

I now wish to recall to your mind the part that the Legislature has played in the sphere of Labour in continuing to participate in the policy which I and

my Government have set before us of implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. In 1933 you passed an important measure which improved the benefits received by workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In the course of this session a still more important advance has been registered by the new Factories Bill, the most important feature of which was the reduction in the hours of work in factories which work throughout the year from 60 to 54. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the helpful attitude of those of you who represent employers' interests towards this great amelioration in the condition of workers in organised industries. On the Industries side this Session has to its credit the very serviceable Petroleum Bill. You have now left to the Executive Government the important task of framing suitable rules under these two Acts. The helpful and enlightened spirit which has inspired the Legislature in passing them will, I have no doubt, beneficially affect their detailed administration.

During the current Session you have passed a measure designed to secure conditions of greater safety for an important section of the manual workers of this country. I refer to the Indian Dock Labourers Bill which, when it becomes law, will give effect in British India to the International Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships. The Bill empowers the Government of India to make regulations for the safety of such workers and to provide, through a system of proper inspection, for the enforcement of those regulations in accordance with standards internationally accepted and embodied in the International Convention, thus filling a gap in India's Labour legislation caused by the non-existence of any regulations which could be said to provide adequately for the safety of dock workers while engaged in their admittedly hazardous occupation. The Act which has now been placed on the Statute Book is still another earnest of India's desire to conform to the highest standards in her treatment of Labour.

Our progress in matters connected with industries has not been confined to legislation. At the Sixth Industries Conference which met shortly before this Session began my Government's proposals for the creation of a Central Bureau from which industrialists, particularly those interested in developing small industries, will be able to obtain such information and expert assistance as my Government in co-operation with the Governments of the Provinces can place at their disposal met with the unanimous support of the delegates present. I hope to see this organisation come into being in the course of the next few months and, though it may seem that the beginning which is being made is a small one, I have great confidence that we are establishing an institution which will prove of real value in promoting the industrial development of this country. The Conference also made recommendations regarding the principles on which the grants my Government is making to assist the handloom-weaving and sericultural industries should be utilised. Those recommendations have been accepted in their entirety.

In the field of Civil Aviation there have recently been important developments. As our ground organisation has become inadequate, it has been decided to inaugurate a programme of development from loan funds. Accordingly we hope to equip the Karachi-Rangoon route and the Karachi-Madras route up to

modern standards within the next few years, and we are prepared also to organise on similar lines the Calcutta-Bombay and the Karachi-Lahore routes, if these should be opened up shortly,--as it is much to be hoped they will be. You have just passed an Act—the Indian Aircraft Act of 1934—which will enable the Civil Aviation Directorate to control and encourage effectively this expanding activity.

I am also glad to announce that we expect to see a similar development in broadcasting in the near future. My Government have decided to proceed as quickly as possible with the erection of a large transmitting station in Delhi, which will broadcast entertainment in Urdu and English. This, we hope, will prove to be only the first step towards the establishment of a complete system of broadcasting covering the whole of India, under which the Provinces will have the benefit of an expression of their own culture in their own literary languages, with a added element of English programme matter.

Both Chambers of the Legislature adopted a Resolution last Session which will prolong the life of the Road Development Account. I trust this step will be of material assistance to the Provinces in the development of their road systems.

I take this opportunity to refer to a matter which is of particular interest to the commercial public. It has been decided to undertake a revision of the existing company and insurance laws in India at an early date. The law relating to companies is that contained in the Indian Companies Act, 1913. This Act is based on the English Companies Act, 1908, which has since been revised and replaced by the Companies Act of 1929. Certain proposals for the amendment of the existing legislation in India have been brought to the notice of the Government of India from time to time by Local Governments, commercial bodies and individuals, but it has always been thought more desirable to avoid piecemeal legislation and to await a suitable opportunity when a thorough overhaul of the Act could be undertaken. The need for early revision of the law has been more keenly felt recently as a result of the growing industrialisation of India and in particular, as is already known to you, there has of late been much criticism of the managing agency system. In the sphere of insurance law also the need for revised legislation is fully established. The rapid development of insurance business in the country during the past few years, not only in respect of the number of new companies formed but also in respect of the forms of insurance activities other than life, *e.g.*, fire, marine, motor and employers' liability insurance, has created new circumstances in which the existing law has been found to be inadequate. The Government of India have, therefore, arrived at the conclusion that both company and insurance law should be revised as soon as possible, and as an initial step it has been decided to appoint Mr. S. C. Sen, Solicitor, as an officer on Special Duty in the Department of Commerce of the Government of India to make a preliminary examination of the various proposals for amendment received from time to time and to indicate broadly the lines on which revised legislation should be undertaken.

To turn to the wide field of Agriculture, which is still to the masses of India their main source of livelihood and is, therefore, one of the primary concerns of Government. Honourable Members must be aware that the Provincial Economic Conference, which my Government had convened last April, reviewed the

position of the agriculturist from the standpoint of rural credit as well as agricultural marketing and production. One of the conclusions reached by the Government of India after consideration of the proceedings of the Conference, was that all possible steps should be taken to ascertain how far agricultural production in India was being scientifically co-ordinated and whether any action was desirable or feasible to make such co-ordination more efficient and more effective. My Government accordingly convened, with the ready co-operation of Local Governments, which I take this opportunity to acknowledge, a Conference of Provincial Directors of Agriculture, Land Revenue officers and non-official representatives from the various Provinces last June. This Conference reviewed exhaustively the position of all the principal crops in India.

After a full consideration of all the relevant factors the Conference came to the satisfactory conclusion that crop planning in India had not proceeded on unscientific and haphazard lines, but had been well planned and had, on the whole, achieved its aim of helping the ryot to use his land to the best purpose. But in the prevailing welter of economic uncertainty the Conference, if I may say so, wisely held that machinery should be provided for the systematic and continuous study of problems relating to the cultivation of India's more important crops such as wheat and rice. To this end it recommended the establishment of appropriate *ad hoc* Committees. Honourable Members will doubtless be glad to know that this recommendation has been accepted by my Government. It is hoped that, by this means, periodical stock-taking of the position of our principal crops and of their prospects in the world's markets will be greatly facilitated. The value of continuous study and periodical review in this respect cannot be over-estimated. Adjustment of the agricultural activity of a country to changing conditions of demand is necessary for the prosperity of the agriculturist. Difficulties of such adjustment in a country of the size of India are evident. Adaptation to changing needs of the market will be impossible of accomplishment without the acquisition, and maintenance up-to-date, of all relevant information.

Another problem of even greater practical importance to the agriculturist is the marketing of his produce to the best advantage. This subject was also discussed in the Provincial Economic Conference, where there was general agreement that an intensive programme to develop marketing facilities for agricultural products offered the best immediate prospect of substantial results. The matter has been under close examination since the Economic Conference concluded. With the help of the Marketing Expert who recently joined the staff of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, a programme of work has been drawn up which, it is hoped, will very shortly be initiated. Experience gained elsewhere shows that the range of marketing activities must be wide. It must, for example, include the organisation of an efficient intelligence service in external markets regarding Indian products and the requirements of consumers both abroad and in this country. An efficient marketing organisation must also ensure the grading, sorting and bulking of the main staple products and the establishment and development of regulated markets. In India the first task is the undertaking of market surveys for the purpose of ascertaining the data on which future developments can be planned. The initial step, therefore, will be to obtain and set out in detail the

present system of marketing the more important commodities, such as wheat and rice, oilseeds, plantation and special crops, *e.g.*, tobacco and fruit as also dairy products, in which term I include livestock.

This survey will be carried out not only in each of the Provinces separately, but will also deal with inter-Provincial, inter-State and foreign trade so as to provide an all-India picture of existing conditions and a common basis for future progress. The report on each survey will set out, in precise technical details, definite suggestions regarding marketing organisation with a view to improving existing conditions in the interests of producers. The work connected with the execution of these surveys will be shared between the Central and Provincial marketing staffs, but it is the intention of my Government that, at least in the initial stages, the cost should be met from Central Revenues, so that the urgent task of ascertaining the data and formulating a co-ordinated plan of marketing organisation should not be delayed by reason of the inability of one or more Provinces to meet the cost of such investigations. The question as to how the cost of the various organisations and activities resulting from these surveys should be met will be one for future consideration on the basis of the benefits expected from the plans that may be adopted.

I should like also at this stage to make a brief reference to the financial position of our Railways. This, as you are aware, has not been all that could have been desired during the past two or three years, though in comparison with most other countries throughout the world we may be said to have escaped lightly. The situation this financial year shows much better prospects. Our earnings are better by over Rs. 1½ crores than they were for the same period of last year. In the nature of things we may expect set-backs, but I am optimistic enough to think that these, if any, will be temporary, and that the increased prosperity of our Railways is at least an indication of a general revival of trade and commerce throughout the country.

As you are no doubt aware, I had the privilege of performing the formal opening ceremony on the 19th December last of the Vizagapatam Harbour. The development of the harbour has been proceeding steadily and with the improved facilities which it is the constant aim of the Administration to provide, it will, it is hoped, be possible in the not very distant future to open the harbour to vessels of much larger dimensions than can be accommodated at present. There has already been a substantial increase both in the number of steamers calling and in the quantity of cargo handled at the port and as improved facilities become available, it will, it is confidently hoped, attract an ever-growing volume of traffic in the future. Vizagapatam Harbour supplies a long-felt need for a safe anchorage for ocean-going traffic on the East Coast of India between Calcutta and Madras and should assist greatly in the development of a hinterland, rich in natural resources, by providing for its produce a convenient outlet to the markets of the world.

On the two last occasions on which I have addressed you I have expressed the belief that the march of events would gradually carry the leaders of the civil disobedience movement further and further away from the sterile methods of negation and obstruction. A year ago I claimed that the events of the last few months had fully borne out that belief; civil disobedience at that time maintained a precarious existence and there were signs that the popular

judgment had already condemned it. During the whole of the last 12 months that feeling has grown and spread and finally in April last the author of this subversive movement, which was started in 1930 and renewed at the beginning of 1932, advised all Congressmen to suspend civil resistance for Swaraj as distinct from specific grievances. A little later this advice was confirmed by the Working Committee of Congress which, at the same time, adopted the constitutional policy, at one time regarded as wholly futile by many Congress leaders, of entering the Legislatures. I was myself away from India during the concluding stage of these events, but the policy announced by the Government of India on June 6th, 1934, had my full approval. That policy has been criticised in some quarters as half-hearted and ungenerous, but, as I said in my speech in this House in September, 1932, we should be failing in our duty if we did not ensure to the best of our ability, not merely that civil disobedience was brought to an end, but that there should be no chance of reviving it. Thus, though the ban on purely Congress organisations was removed, we could not take the risk of allowing freedom to those more revolutionary organisations which were distinct from Congress, though working at one time more or less in close association with its objects. Still less could we give up the special powers which had been found necessary for dealing with the movement and which had been given to Local Governments, by the Acts of this Legislature or of the Provincial Legislatures. The curtain has thus fallen, I hope finally, on the civil disobedience movement and one of the objects of the policy which I indicated in September 1932 has been achieved. That happy result I do not attribute so much to the action taken by Government as to the sturdy good sense of the mass of the people of India whose representatives you are and whose opinions you reflect. They recognise that true progress cannot be secured by carrying on an unmeaning and futile struggle with constitutional authority or by revolutionary methods. There is now I think throughout the country a general recognition of the truth that the right road to progress is not through coercion or mass action; and it is because of this that I have the confident hope that civil disobedience will not or cannot be revived. The problems before us, social, economic and political, are many, but a solution can be found to these difficult problems if all classes of political thought in the country devote themselves to the task in a spirit of friendly co-operation.

Once again I can chronicle a further improvement in the terrorist situation in Bengal, but incidents such as the dastardly attack on His Excellency Sir John Anderson show that the terrorist organisation, though on the whole greatly weakened, is still strong in some places, and that we are not free from the danger of isolated outrages whether they take the form of attacks on Government officers or of equally cowardly attacks on persons wholly unconnected with Government with the object of obtaining funds to keep the movement alive. But that attack on Sir John Anderson, providentially wholly unsuccessful, undoubtedly had the effect of rousing public opinion against terrorism as perhaps nothing else could have done and called forth from all sides condemnation of the cult of assassination. In fact the most satisfactory feature of the last few months has been that there are distinct signs that a definite stand against terrorism would be welcomed in many quarters where in the past it might have been regarded as anti-national. The Provincial Councils of Bengal and of

Assam have passed by large majorities the legislation which the Local Governments considered necessary for dealing with this evil, and you, gentlemen of the Central Legislature, have also accepted the legislation which we had to put before you to supplement the local Acts. But outside the Legislature also public opinion is strengthening, and I trust that the appeal recently issued by leaders of all shades of opinion in Bengal and the Conference which they are summoning will result in practical steps being taken to create a healthier atmosphere in Bengal and to prevent the youth of the Province from being contaminated with these dangerous ideas. In this they will, I know, receive all possible support from His Excellency Sir John Anderson and his Government, who recognise that legislation and police action will not by themselves eradicate this hideous evil; public opinion alone can do that, and I am glad to see that so many of those in a position to guide that opinion in Bengal have now realised their responsibilities and have come forward openly with constructive suggestions for the protection of the youth of their Province from the insidious approaches of the terrorists providing them with wider opportunities of useful service for their country.

Next year we shall be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the King Emperor, and I have received and accepted an invitation from His Majesty's Government to send certain official representatives from India to join in the celebrations in London.

My Government are now in communication with Local Governments and Rulers of Indian States as to the best and most fitting manner in which this auspicious occasion should be recognised in India. The King-Emperor has been pleased to intimate that it is His Majesty's desire that celebrations should be on a local basis and that His Majesty's subjects should, wherever practicable, have the opportunity of observing the occasion near their homes. It is His Majesty's express wish also that celebrations should be as simple as possible and that all undue expenditure should be avoided. I feel sure that, when the time comes, the Princes and people of India will loyally comply with His Majesty's wishes and at the same time join with their fellow-citizens throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of our beloved Sovereign's reign. (Applause.)

I think you may expect me to give you some account of the impressions I have brought back here, as a result of my two months' visit to England, and of the general atmosphere towards the Reforms Scheme which has been under consideration for some years and is now reaching its final stages.

It will, I am sure, be obvious to you all, knowing Parliamentary procedure as you do, that it would not be possible for me to forecast information as to what recommendations the Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament is likely to contain. Nor again can I set your minds at rest as to the date of publication of the Report, for no final decision had been reached on that point when I left. As you know the Committee has dispersed for the summer recess, but will re-assemble early in October in order to carry its work to completion before Parliament is prorogued.

During my short stay at Home I had many opportunities of meeting and having discussions with all sorts and conditions of people, with Members of

both Houses of Parliament, with those interested in trade and commerce and business in India, and with many others, both men and women, who for one reason or another were keenly interested in Indian affairs. The general impression I have brought back with me is that the feeling amongst my countrymen in England is full of goodwill and sympathy for the natural aspirations of Indians in regard to political advance. A deep sense of the responsibility was moreover evident on all sides in the general anxiety to obtain first-hand information from those of us who have had the most recent experience of the affairs and conditions in this country. I should like to add that I come back with feelings of the keenest appreciation, which I am sure will be shared by every Member of both our Legislative Chambers and by the public outside, of the untiring labours which the Members of the Joint Select Committee have freely and readily given during the past 15 months to secure a proper solution of the great problem of Indian Reform.

One assurance I can confidently give you. When the New Constitution Bill is passed into Law, you may rely on my efforts to ensure that no time will be lost in carrying into effect as expeditiously as possible the intentions of Parliament as expressed in the Act.

I have spoken of the responsibility of my countrymen at this present juncture, but we who live and work here and who have position and influence in the public life of this country have a great responsibility too. During the coming months it will be our duty to guide public opinion in the highest interests of all classes of our people. Let us put aside all racial feelings if such still exist, let us believe in each other's sincerity of purpose to continue working towards the fulfilment of our cherished hopes for the welfare and advancement of this country.

I would ask you to look around the world at the present time, and amid all the troubles, anxieties and possible dangers that we see in many countries and in diverse lands, we can proudly feel that within the territories of the British Empire conditions are both sound and stable, and that we are slowly and steadily recovering from the world depression which has so seriously affected us all.

For the greater part of my public life I have served the British Empire in its outward parts, and far the greatest number of years of that life have been spent in this country which I have always looked upon as my second Empire home. During that life I have become more and more convinced that it is by the influence and example of the friendship and close co-operation within our Empire that we shall more and more exercise an influence in securing peace and good-will in what is now a very distracted and unsettled world.

With this in my mind, let my last word to Honourable Members at the close of this Parliament be a heartfelt prayer that as our two races by fate or destiny were brought together long years ago to work for the development and prosperity of India, so in the future, and particularly in the critical days that lie before us, Providence should guide us still to secure the fulfilment of those political hopes and aspirations which many of us have striven for many years. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FLOODS IN BIHAR.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement in connection with the recent flood in the Patna Division in the Bihar Province ?

(b) What is the estimated loss of property and lives on account of this calamity ?

(c) What relief measures have been taken by the Central and the Provincial Governments in this connection ?

(d) Do Government propose to sanction an immediate grant for the relief of the distress caused by the flood in the Patna Division ?

(e) Do Government propose to sanction some grant from the Indian Peoples Famine Trust for the relief of the distress caused by the flood to the agriculturists ?

(f) Do Government propose to request the Local Government to remit some portion of their demands, like Revenue and Cess, to the distressed agriculturists ?

(g) What other relief measures do Government propose for the relief of the distressed people of the flood-affected areas ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I received yesterday morning a telegraphic report from the Government of Bihar and Orissa which I had intended to read to the House if so desired, but just this minute I have learnt that it has been published in today's papers as an official communiqué. So perhaps it is not necessary for me to read it.

In regard to the latter part of the Honourable Member's question, it is clearly not possible for the Local Government to say at this stage what relief measures are necessary or whether the Local Government will require any further assistance. The primary responsibility for initiating relief measures rests with them, and the Government of India have no doubt that they will take all suitable action.

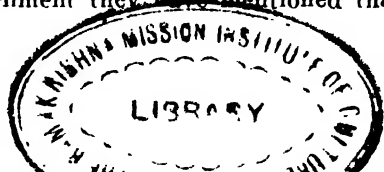
Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that the Bihar Government's estimate about the earthquake was not proved to be correct in the end ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No, I am not aware of that.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Have Government seen the report of the Central Relief Committee and the telegram published by Babu Rajendra Prasad in connection with this flood ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I understand that it has been published in this morning's papers.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that in that communiqué issued by the Bihar Government they have mentioned that there is no loss of life estimated ?



The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The actual words of the telegram were :

“ No loss of life yet reported, but damage to crops serious ”.

Mr. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that in the Central Relief Committee's communiqué which has been referred to, it is mentioned that actual loss of life has taken place in Bihar on account of this flood ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I cannot say I noticed that ; but I have no information except this telegram from the Bihar and Orissa Government.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware of the news published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 29th August that the damage from this flood is greater than that during the earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have not seen that.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to see these telegrams of the Central Relief Committee and the telegrams published in the *Hindustan Times* as well ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : If the Honourable Member's object is to make me admit that the Local Government's report is incorrect and that the Relief Committee's Report is correct, all I have to say is that I have no information beyond what I have placed at the disposal of the House.

Mr. B. Das : Will Government be pleased to state if the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund can be applied to the relief of the flood-stricken people in Bihar ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I think not : these floods have no direct connection with the earthquake, I think.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government kindly state the total amount of money sanctioned for meeting the situation arising out of this flood in South Bihar ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am not in a position to do that : the floods occurred only about two days ago, and I have no doubt that the estimate of the damage is not yet complete.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I was going to ask whether the Honourable Member is aware what amount of money has been sanctioned by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to cope with the situation arising out of this flood.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have no information of that yet.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is it a fact that some amount has been given to some other Province also in connection with this flood from the Indian Peoples Famine Trust Fund ? If that is so, do Government propose to help Bihar as well from that Fund ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with that question ; at the time of the earthquake, as my Honourable friend is aware, the Indian Peoples Famine Trust Fund made a grant of eight lakhs of rupees to the Government of Bihar and Orissa. Recently

they have made a grant of one and a quarter lakhs of rupees to the Government of Assam : they have received no application yet from the Government of Bihar and Orissa for further assistance from the Fund in connection with these floods.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Do Government propose to consider it favourably if they receive any such request from the Local Government ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : That, Sir, is a hypothetical question.

EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS PUT UPON FOREIGN TRADE IN GERMANY.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Are Government aware of certain exchange restrictions that have been put upon foreign trade in Germany, resulting in serious disadvantage to Indian exporters ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Reichsbank has for some time taken complete control of all foreign currencies entering Germany, and that no payment can be made by the German importer for goods exported from India without permission of the German Government ?

(c) Is it a fact that the restrictions have been gradually tightened till recently when the German Government severely cut down foreign currencies permissible for payment for goods bought from foreign countries ?

(d) Is it a fact that as a result large amounts due to Indian firms of exporters cannot be realised ?

(e) Is it a fact that under the present restrictions, it is next to impossible to carry on India's export trade with Germany ?

(f) Is it a fact that trade pacts have been concluded between Germany and some other countries obviating the restrictive conditions of foreign trade ?

(g) Is it a fact that such a special trade pact or Exchange Agreement was recently concluded between Germany and Great Britain ?

(h) If so, was the case of India considered in that connexion by the British Government ?

(i) What are the terms of this Pact or Agreement ?

(j) What action has been or is proposed to be taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Government are aware that the German Government have found it necessary to impose restrictions on the supply of foreign exchange. They are not aware of the extent to which these restrictions have placed a handicap on India's export trade but on receipt of a representation a few days ago, the Indian Trade Commissioner, Hamburg, was asked by telegram for a full report on the situation. This report has not yet been received but I shall reply to the Honourable Member's questions as soon as the necessary information is available. The situation is receiving the careful attention of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Does the Honourable Member expect to give a reply to this House by the 31st ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I hope so. I understand that, within the last minute or two, a reply has come from the Trade Commissioner, Hamburg. If so, I shall, with the permission of the Chair, make a statement on Friday.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Not tomorrow ? I thought the Honourable Member has got the reply ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I should like to consider it before making a statement.

Mr. B. Das : While the Reuters gave out in the Press a statement about this Anglo-German exchange agreement, the Trade Commissioner for India never took the opportunity to acquaint the Government about such negotiations.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I do not know what the question is.

Mr. B. Das : How is it that the Trade Commissioner for India in Hamburg did not know of this foreign exchange negotiation between England and Germany, while the Reuters has given it out in the Press ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : Probably he did not at the time know its details.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : May I know whether it will be permissible to this side of the House to put questions to the Honourable Member when he makes the statement on Friday ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I will allow that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government aware of the fact that banks in Germany put a restriction that any money belonging to Indians cannot be used for any trade purposes at all and that Indians can only draw 200 marks per month while in Germany ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I have no information on that point.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This is a fact and will the Honourable Member make enquiries ? It happened in my own case.

Mr. B. Das : Was it not the duty of the Indian Trade Commissioner in Hamburg to find out.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I think the Honourable Member can wait till the statement is made.

Mr. B. Das : I only wanted to know why he did not take any steps to acquaint the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I cannot say why he did not do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : It has been brought to the notice of the Chair that in the Bill to consolidate the law relating to customs duties as supplied to Honourable Members, in the printed form there has been a clerical omission, that is, in page 37, relating to Item No. 63 "All sorts of Iron and Steel and manufactures thereof not otherwise specified". Of course, there is no change in the

customs duty, but they forgot to print the actual duty in columns 3, 4 and 5. Therefore, the Chair has ordered that the clerical omission may be rectified. It will be a preferential revenue duty, the standard rate of duty is 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, and the United Kingdom rate is 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, which is the existing duty.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : This is the result of passing legislation in a hurry !

THE INDIAN NAVY (DISCIPLINE) BILL.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

I trust the House will forgive me if I do not say very much today about the actual Bill. The Bill itself deals almost entirely with discipline, which, however good it may be for all of us, is a distinctly irksome subject, and the important things about it are those which flow indirectly from it. These are twofold. If this Bill becomes law it will mean that the Royal Indian Marine will receive the added status of a Navy and the additional prestige which connection with the Royal Navy will give it, and in addition, there will become operative for the first time the amendments made in 1927 to the Government of India Act with regard to naval matters. I shall refer later to those amendments.

As regards the Bill itself, I think I need only say that in accordance with the wishes of this House the Select Committee found a way of getting over the limitations imposed upon the application of the Naval Discipline Act to Indian conditions by including the Act, with the necessary modifications and adaptations, as a Schedule to the Bill. This certainly meant a great deal of work for the draftsman, but, I think, Honourable Members will agree, that it has been well worth it, and they cannot now accuse me of having brought before this House an “unseamanlike” measure. (Laughter.)

I now pass on to the notes attached to the report of the Select Committee. Of the three points brought to notice there are two major constitutional points which will be settled independently of this Bill. As regards the third, the matter of expenditure, I wish to repeat the assurance which I gave to this House on an earlier occasion, that the passing of this Bill will not commit India to any greater expenditure than she incurs at present on her naval defence. The effect of the Bill will be indirectly to increase the status and efficiency of the service ; it will not increase its cost, nor indeed is there any intention of increasing the amount spent on the Indian Marine or the Indian Navy. When I last spoke, I dwelt at some length on this particular point in order to counter a series of arguments, which had been adduced during the previous debates on the Bill, that behind it lay a deep laid scheme of His Majesty's Government to force upon India a large sized Indian Navy. I hoped that I had satisfied Honourable Members that this idea was completely fallacious when I was promptly caught up and accused of a desire to stifle all possibility of India ever having a larger fleet than she has at present. Nothing was further from my mind than this ; for I realise

[Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby.]

this that in the days to come, India will, and must, demand a larger provision for her naval defence. But for the present it seems to me that the best thing that we can do is to consolidate the first step that has already been begun and provide an adequate force to carry out the limited objective of the local naval defence of India's ports and shipping. When the time comes that public opinion demands that a further advance should be made in this matter of naval defence, then I have no doubt that, if they can possibly find the money, the Government will not stand in the way of that demand.

Next, Sir, I wish to refer to one point with regard to the Indianisation of the service which I omitted to mention in my last speech. During the debate on this Bill in February last, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, made a suggestion that we should stop all British recruitment forthwith and, for such time as we still require to have a British element of junior officers in the service, we should obtain that element by secondment from the Royal Navy. We promptly took steps to find out whether, if this suggestion was accepted, it would be possible for us to obtain young officers from the Admiralty during the next few years. The answer we received was in the negative, the reason being that the initial training of the young officer of the Royal Navy covers such a long period, both on the executive and the engineering sides owing to courses and the like,—on the executive side I think it is a matter of eight years—that if the Admiralty were to loan to India officers of the seniority that we should require it would mean a definite interference with their early training. The result is that we are thrown back upon the system of recruitment that we have in force at the present time. In regard to the question of Indianisation in general, I may say that we have got our eye upon the question of increasing the proportion of one Indian to two British officers, but as I pointed out to the House the other day, although we have 14 officers and officers-designate in the service at present, there are only three actually serving with the squadron and that is a small number from which to draw conclusions as to whether our methods of recruitment and training are on the right lines.

I must, however, mention one thing which casts a somewhat different light on the arguments I brought forward in my last speech with regard to recruitment. I suggested then that we were not getting enough candidates for the Marine at our open competitive examination, but I am glad to be able to say that, possibly as the result of the publicity given to the previous debate on this Bill, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of candidates who have put in their names for the Indian Marine—I hope by then it will be the Indian Navy—at the examination next October.

I come now to the constitutional aspect of the Bill. As I said just now, if it is passed into law, it will mean that for the first time the amendments made to the Government of India Act in 1927 will become operative. The present constitutional position is that in time of war the Admiralty can take over the whole of the Indian Marine without consulting the Legislature, without consulting the Government of India, without consulting anybody; and it is nowhere laid down that, if they do so, they need pay for it. Under the revised section of the Government of India Act, which, as I say, will become operative if this Bill becomes law, the position will, to my mind, alter materially to the benefit of India, since for the first time it

will be definitely laid down that the Indian naval forces will be employed for the purposes of India alone. Let me read this new section :

“ Any naval forces and vessels which may from time to time be raised and provided by the Governor General in Council shall be employed for the purposes of the Government of India alone, except that if the Governor General declares that a state of emergency exists, which justifies such action, the Governor General in Council may place at the disposal of the Admiralty all or any of such forces and vessels.”

I know that this does not go far enough for most Honourable Members on the opposite side of the House who indeed consider that, until this Legislature has complete control over all defence matters, there will be no real advance. These major constitutional questions will, however, be settled independently of this Bill, and as it seems to me, the position with regard to this Bill resolves itself into one of what answer this House will give to the following questions. Are they content that the naval forces of India should retain their present inferior status until such time as Defence ceases to be a reserved subject ? Or are they ready to seize this opportunity to gain for those forces the added status and prestige of a Navy ? This step has got to be taken sooner or later, and it seems to me that, having regard to the effect that it is bound to have on the status, the efficiency and the contentment of the service, it would be wise to take it now.

With regard to this matter of status there is one point that I wish to emphasize. Outside Indian waters the Royal Indian Marine has at present no status at all. When the ships of the service meet the ships of the Royal Navy or of the navies of the Dominions outside Indian waters, the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine take position behind all the others. We are proposing shortly as a measure of economy to send to England a party of officers and men of the Marine to bring out the new sloop ‘ India ’ which, as I dare say Honourable Members saw in the newspapers a few days ago, has just been launched there. When these officers and men pass out of Indian waters, they will, under present conditions, have no more status than the crew of a merchant ship. What is more, the men will actually be under no code of discipline ; for the present code of discipline which applies to the service runs only in Indian waters. The moment this Bill becomes law and the service receives the added status of a Navy, the objections of which I have just given an example will be removed and the Royal Indian Navy will be able to take its rightful position among the navies of the Empire. Sir, I move.

Mr. President : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official) : I congratulate my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, in the presentation of this Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee, but, in doing so, I desire to make a few observations which I trust he will kindly take into serious consideration. We know that the primary object of the Bill is to change the name of the “ Royal Indian Marine ” to the “ Royal Indian Navy ” and to give it Statutory effect so that added prestige may be given to the Navy. It was also very clearly pointed out by the Vice-Admiral, Royal Indian Marine, that by passing this Bill the Royal Indian Marine and its officers will get the same status as the rest of the Navy in the Empire. These objects are very laudable, and, I am sure, they will

[Sir Henry Gidney.]

have the entire support of this House, but along with that the Honourable Member stated that in this change of name no extra expenditure will be involved. In other words, this House need have no fear of being called upon to sanction or spend more money, other than the 65½ lakhs or thereabouts which is the present cost of the Royal Indian Marine excluding the £100,000 which India pays to England for her naval defence. Now, Sir, I view this statement with great concern. If it is the intention of this House to pass a Bill like this solely with the object of changing the name, I think we shall not have gone very far. This expenditure of 65½ lakhs is not a small amount and with £100,000, it comes to the neighbourhood of a crore of rupees.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The £100,000 is included in the 65½ lakhs.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : I stand corrected, but even this 65½ lakhs is no small amount. In this connection, the House would like to know what the Royal Indian Marine consists of at present. It consists of five sloops, two patrol boats and one Depot-ship.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar (Nominated Non-Official) : 65 lakhs is not a small amount. Do you know what it costs to make one small vessel ?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : I know very well that all these vessels put together cannot come anywhere near one
 3 P. M. British man-of-war, which costs from seven to eight million pounds. What I wanted to stress is/ this. Here are eight of these boats for which this House is asked to pay 65½ lakhs. Now the main duty of these eight boats is ostensibly to sweep mines. We have no mines today in Indian waters, we may have them some day. But let us look at the training of the Royal Indian Marine. The late Field Marshal Lord Rawlinson, in 1926, referring to the recommendation of the Incheape Committee that the trooping service of the Royal Indian Marine should be abolished, said that "the service should be constituted as a purely combatant naval service". In addition,—the Army Secretary will correct me if I am wrong—the Royal Indian Marine boats, in addition to sweeping mines, are trained in gunnery, musketry training, signalling, etc. Indeed it has become so proficient in these arts of naval warfare that His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief, expressing his opinion in November, 1931, said this :

"If the present rate of development continues, and I feel confident it must, the Royal Indian Marine should prove an efficient adjunct to the forces under the command of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India and also be of great value to the defence of India from the naval point of view in the event of war."

My point is this. It would be well if the Army Secretary told this House how this fifty lakhs is expended. As for the staff of this Royal Indian Marine, I understand that out of a total strength of 1,010, there are 118 officers, which gives one officer in ten of the total personnel. Now, I submit that this excess of officer staff is a very top-heavy expenditure. Sir, I know, an adequate staff is necessary for many purposes, but a number of these officers of the Royal Indian Marine are employed by the Government of India in the Commerce Department and they get a big salary ; I do not think the House knows that they get more in allowances than their pay proper. I consider, Sir, that the cost of the officer staff of the Royal

Indian Marine is a very heavy one, and, I believe, if the Honourable Member devotes his mind to it, he will see that there is some force in what I am saying. There is not the faintest doubt that the large officer personnel of the Royal Indian Marine, compared with that of the Royal Navy, is extravagant and larger than any marine service in the world. I do think this House should seriously consider the beginning of the building of its very own Indian Navy and not depend on a mine sweeping Navy and on such assistance as is provided by the Admiralty for its naval defence. The same thing was said in the Sandhurst Committee, *viz.*, that we could not start our own air force. I submit we must make a beginning here today. You are going to change its name to a Navy, and if that Navy is to function as a Navy, its duties must not be confined to mine sweeping. As things stand today, the Army Secretary should see that the officer personnel is reduced, and it can be reduced, and this is the opinion of *ex-Royal Indian Marine* officers too. The next point I want to discuss is this. My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, has today for the first time referred to Indianisation of the Royal Indian Marine. We know in the House, that the rank and file of the Royal Indian Marine are Indians, the Army Secretary stated that there are 118 officers, out of a total marine corps of about just over a thousand. The Army Secretary told us that today there are three Indian officers serving, and that there are eleven other Indian officers under training, which would give a total of fourteen out of a personnel of officers of 118. Let us compare the policy underlying this Indianization process with Indianization of the new Indian Air Force. Indianization of the Air Force is to be done by recruitment in India and for the beginning though it is said India has not got the Royal Air Force England will loan us officers. Here, in the Royal Indian Marine, which is to be called the Royal Indian Navy, there will be a continuation of recruitment in England to the extent of two to one at least. Now, is this real Indianization? In three years' time we will have fourteen Indians out of 118 officers: The Honourable Member stated that we have not enough candidates, that suitable candidates are not forthcoming. Sir, I cannot understand why the Army Secretary experiences any such difficulty; surely the Army Secretary realizes that there is in existence today the training ship "Dufferin" whose cadets I think might be very usefully employed for the Royal Indian Marine. If the "Dufferin" is to be the nucleus of the India's Mercantile Marine, and if these cadets are today being used as apprentices in the pilot services and for the river survey of the Hooghly and Rangoon etc., I do think it forms an ideal recruiting centre for the Royal Indian Marine. I offer this suggestion, for the serious consideration of the Army Secretary. It may be that the training in the "Dufferin" is not the same as is required for the Royal Indian Marine, but surely our Royal Indian Marine duties should not be confined to sweeping mines? Now the other point to which I wanted to refer is the constitutional aspect of this Bill. We all know that it was mainly for this reason that the Bill was thrown out in the 1928-29 Legislative Assembly Session. I think the Army Secretary has now clarified the position and that we need not discuss this matter *in extenso*. But I come back again to the first point I raised. If the constitutional position underlying this Bill is such that in time of war—I suppose in the new Indian Constitution Act—Defence will be an entirely reserved subject. If this is so, the Indian Navy will come under His Excellency the Viceroy as being a reserved subject, and the Indian Legis-

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lature will have no voice whatever over this Navy, because until Defence is taken away from the complete control of the Viceroy as a reserved subject, it is mere camouflage to think that this House will have any voice whatever in the control of the Indian Navy. Sir, I should like the Army Secretary to give his serious thought to the points I have brought forward. If the Army Secretary will realize that India is eager and willing to have her own Navy, again if the Army Secretary will realize that there are a number of young lads willing to make their careers in the Indian Navy, he will be doing a great service for India's new navy and he will then be really Indianizing the service, instead of this camouflage Indianization within three years of fourteen officers out of a total of 118 officers. I submit, Indianisation is not going forward at any appreciable pace worth speaking of ; it is almost at a stand still ; there have been some Indians taken on, but nothing in proportion to what India could supply if only Government would utilize such avenues of recruitment as are offered by the "Dufferin". (Applause.)

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I rise to support this motion. In the beginning I must state that the attitude of the Honourable the Army Secretary was very conciliatory in the Select Committee and he has given strong proofs, if proofs were needed, of his interest in Indianisation both of the army and of the navy. In the army his interest in Indianization is very well known. He has taken very prominent part in two or three committees and his genuine desire to see the Indian officer to secure an equality with the British officer is also well-known. It is very unfortunate that in spite of his efforts and the efforts of the Government of India, the Home Government remained stubborn and yesterday we had a defeat only by a very few votes. For this Navy Bill the Select Committee had to do a great deal as has been explained by the Army Secretary, and now the Bill that is presented before this House is a self-contained and full measure and, therefore, I think, we ought to accept it. The position of the Royal Indian Marine with regard to its status is to be changed to that of the Royal Indian Navy and this change of name will give an additional status and importance to those officers who are now known as Royal Indian Marine Officers only.

As regards Indianization, I am not at all satisfied with the rate that is proposed, namely, one in three. I think that that rate will be accelerated very shortly and we shall soon see our Indians officering this Royal Indian Navy. In naval defence India has always been very backward and weak. Indian Princes of the former times, such as, the Mughals and the Mahrattas, did maintain a sort of a navy but that was not strong enough for the defence of India on the sea side, and that is very well borne out by the various settlements of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the French, that are to be found at various places on the coast of India. Sir, it was on account of the want of naval defence in this country that the British power settled itself on the soil of this land. But it will be a very long time before India can have an adequate navy of her own for her defence. Besides, as long as India is within the British Empire, there is no necessity of keeping a very big navy and that is one of the strongest reasons why India should desire to remain always within the British Empire. By living within the British Empire, her naval defence will be much cheapened and she will not have to pay very heavily for that defence. In other

words, although India is very weak in her naval defence, she is obliged to maintain a much bigger army than is needed for her own land defences. But that is a different question altogether and I need not refer to it. What I have to say is that Indians should also be taught to serve in the navy and to officer the ships and to handle them and a beginning has been made I hope that the pace of Indianization will be increased and more and more of our youngmen will take to sea and will be ready to bear the responsibility of defending the coasts of India.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, as a Member of the Select Committee, I should like to offer one or two observations. In the first place, I should like to congratulate my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, for the very conciliatory attitude which he took up in the Select Committee and for the readiness with which he supplied to us information which was not immediately available to us. Sir, this legislation has a chequered career. I need not go into the whole of its previous history, but I may only recapitulate that this Bill was introduced on the 21st February, 1928, and the motion for its reference to the Select Committee was made on that day. It was thrown out on that occasion. In February, 1926, His Excellency the Viceroy made an announcement in another place for the establishment of the Indian Navy, and in the subsequent year, that is, 1927, a Bill was passed in Parliament amending section 66 of the Government of India Act providing for the establishment of an Indian Navy. Later on, some departmental committees sat over this matter, and as a result of which a Bill was introduced last time. This Bill was circulated for public opinion and it was ultimately referred to a Select Committee which has produced this report. Now, Sir, I should like to mention very briefly two or three points in this connection. In the first place, I note that no extra expenditure will be involved in bringing this Navy into existence beyond the expenditure which we are already incurring for the Indian Marine. This point was made clear in the note which some of us added to the report of the Select Committee. We stated :

“ In signing this Report we wish to make it clear that we take at its face value the statement made on behalf of the Government that the sole principle underlying this Bill is a mere change of designation and status and would not commit the House to any additional expenditure upon the strengthening or equipment of the Indian Navy. We consider that our signatures to this Report should not be understood as our acquiescence in the unfortunate predicament of the Indian Legislature in having to find money for the defence of India upon which they can exercise no control.”

My Honourable friend, Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, has referred to the meagre provision for the supply of ships which will go to constitute this Indian Navy. Now, this is, I think, not the proper time or occasion for considering that question, because the constitutional question has yet to be solved and whatever sums of money may be needed in expanding this nucleus of an Indian Navy should be undertaken not at this time but when the constitutional position is clarified and when we can afford to spend additional sums of money for the expansion of the Indian Navy. The second point to which I would like to refer is that the passage of the Bill in this House would not in any way mean the perpetuation of any racial discrimination in practice. I am glad to note in this connection that in the report which we have submitted we have stated as follows :

“ To the new section 65 proposed by the Bill we have added a proviso that no racial discrimination shall take place in consequence of any modifications made

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by the Governor General in Council in the practice and procedure of Courts martial."

In the original Bill there was something about the constitution of the courts martial to which some of us objected. This point has been made clear by inserting a provision which means that no racial discrimination would be allowed in that matter. I would have gone further and claimed that in the appointment of officers and in regard to their status and other privileges no racial discrimination would be allowed. I do not know whether my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, has made that position clear. If he has not done so, I should like to have an unequivocal expression of an announcement that this Bill will not in any way inflict any racial discrimination as against Indians. We do not want that there should be any question of what have been termed as inferiority complex or superiority complex.

Now, with regard to the third point, I mean the question of Indianization, I regret to notice that the pace of Indianisation is very slow. Sir, I feel that the question of Indianization, in the case of Government services in this country, should not arise at all because in India it should be assumed that Indianization should be the rule rather than the exception. It is only in exceptional cases that Englishmen or other people from other countries should be imported to assist in the administration of the country in regard to those matters for which Indians are not yet fitted. But as in every other country the nationals of the country are supposed to man entirely all the departments of the Government, so in this country we have to start with the assumption that Indianization would be the rule rather than the exception. But, unfortunately, limited as we are in our political status, we have got to make a demand for Indianisation. In other countries which are more fortunately situated, this question has no practical value or meaning. For instance, in Japan the question of employing Japanese in the administration of Japan would be an absurd proposition, because Japan enjoys a national form of Government, and there, from the very start, all the important and unimportant posts are occupied by the nationals of the country itself. Here unfortunately in this country we have to start with a handicap and I regret to say that the Government of India have been rather slow in forcing the pace of Indianisation, so that in course of time the Indians would come to occupy all positions of importance in every branch of the Indian administration. Now the ratio of Indianisation has been stated to be one to three, if I remember aright. This is an extremely meagre proportion.

An Honourable Member : It is one in three.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Even then I submit it is not a very satisfactory state of things. I should like the pace accelerated. We have got the training ship "Dufferin" in Bombay, and we have also got the mercantile marine. They will form, I hope, the nucleus of a regular and increasing supply of Indian officers, trained and equipped in course of time, to take the rightful place in the Indian Navy. There is just one other point that I should finally refer and that is that ordinarily, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Colonel Lumby, this Indian Navy is to be used solely by the Government of India. But in cases of emergency it is open to His Majesty's Government to commandeer this Navy at the instance of the Governor General. I should have liked that this power

should have been vested in the Central Legislature, but, as has been pointed out, the constitutional position of India does not admit of any such modification being made in the situation at present. The defence of India under the new scheme will not be vested in the Central Legislature, and, consequently, the disposal of the Indian navy in times of emergency will not be vested in the Central Legislature, but it will vest in the executive government. Now, the difference between vesting the powers in the Central Legislature and the executive government varies with the constitutional position in different countries. In countries which enjoy self-government, for instance, there is close co-operation between the Legislature and the executive government. One supplements the other ; but in a country situated as we are there is an element of suspicion, if I may be permitted to speak so, without reserve, lurking in the minds of the representatives of the people with regard to the objectives of the executive government in some matters or other. It is in that view of the case that we look upon with some suspicion the power which is being sought to be vested in the Governor General in Council. But I hope in actual practice there will be no occasion for our suspicion to be realised, and that this Navy will start on its career and it will form the nucleus of a fighting force which will do credit to itself and shed lustre upon the British Empire. (Applause.)

Mr C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Mulhammadan Rural) : Sir, my Honourable friend from Bihar started by congratulating the Army Secretary and ended by disclosing the "element of suspicion" which often-times haunts his ilk. Sir, I am just rising only to say one word. While the question of Indianisation, as pointed out by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, must always be borne in mind, we always look upon India as having a vulnerable sea-board. The last "conqueror", if I may use that word, came by the sea, and he proposes to stay the longest. (Laughter.) India, with its large sea-board, wants an Indian Navy and I look upon this Bill as laying the foundation of an Indian Navy. (Hear, hear.) When we were in England last time, we were invited by His Majesty's Government to visit Portsmouth and to see not only the submarines but also battle-ships. Then, as during the lunch which was given to us by the naval officers, one of the speakers observed, it was a great opportunity for India to be associated with the greatest sea-power in the world. (Hear, hear.) India with its large sea-board needs an Indian Navy and Indian youngmen must look forward to a naval career as the youngmen of England do. I am very glad that this Bill has been brought forward and from today it is a privilege for us to dream dreams and see the visions of the growth of a great Indian Navy for which no Indian Legislature will grudge the money required. (Applause.)

Mr. F. E. James (Madras : European) : Sir, I will not detain the House for more than a few minutes. I do wish to say that we, as a Group, desire to bid God-speed to this Bill and to the formation of the new Royal Indian Navy. Sir, I do not wish to touch on any controversial constitutional issue, but I would like to observe that few people, who have not had the opportunity of serving in one or other of the fighting forces of the Empire, realise what status means to the members of those forces. Although the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine may not have either the time or the patience to read this somewhat voluminous Bill, yet I am perfectly sure that when their attention

[Mr. F. F. James.]

is drawn to clause 3, sub-clause (2) (b) of the Bill, they will feel a thrill as they realise how greatly their status has changed. That sub-clause says :

“(2) In the application to the Indian Navy of the Naval Discipline Act as so set forth—

(a) ‘the Indian Navy’ has the same meaning as in this Act, and

(b) references to His Majesty’s Navy and His Majesty’s ships shall be deemed to include the forces and ships constituting the Indian Navy.”

Sir, that is a tremendous step, and in a land where status means so much and in a service where status stands for such dignity, I believe that this change will be greatly appreciated. And if there were nothing else in the Bill, I think I should be voicing the feelings of Members of the House when I say that to confer upon the Royal Indian Marine the status of a Royal Indian Navy is only a step taken by this House which is richly deserved by the magnificent services of the officers and men of the Royal Indian Marine for a period of many years.

Sir, reference has been made to the necessity for as rapid an Indianisation as possible of the Royal Indian Navy. There is no one in this House who would deny that desirability and that necessity. Of course, in a fighting machine, efficiency is always the most important desideratum. Therefore, when we call for Indianisation, we are bound to qualify it with this—that we must temper the need for Indianisation with the necessity for the retention of the efficiency of the past days. I understand, Sir, that the proportion of Indians which will be trained, if suitable candidates are forthcoming, will, for the time being, be as one is to three. I also understand that if that proves to be successful that number or that proportion will be increased. One cannot help wondering what that proportion would have been today if the Indian Navy Discipline Bill had succeeded in passing this Legislature six or seven years ago.

Sir, there is only one other matter which I should like to refer to, and that is a matter which I referred to in my original speech on the motion to refer this Bill to a Select Committee. There has been a desire expressed in various parts of the House that India should have, so to speak, its own Bill. I may perhaps be permitted to congratulate the Army Secretary on the accommodation he has shown in agreeing to the opinion of the Select Committee that the English Statute should be reproduced *in extenso* with the necessary modifications to make it suitable to Indian conditions. That, Sir, in a sense completes the status which, as I have referred to just now, has been conferred upon the Royal Indian Marine. Sir, reference has been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, in an extremely sympathetic and suggestive speech, to the position of the Royal Indian Navy in times of war. I think my Honourable friend and I need not quarrel as to the precise position of the Governor General or of the Legislative Assembly at the time when an emergency is declared. One thing that we are both united in is, that we believe that in this Indian Navy which is to have the Sign Manual of His Majesty’s hand upon its status, we shall have a force that is not only loyal but that is also efficient, and that when the time of emergency comes it will contribute not a little, first of all to the defence of India’s coasts, and then if need be, to the defence of the great Empire of which we are all proud. I have no fear that the process of Indianisation, as

time goes on, will impair that efficiency or undermine that loyalty. I believe that in the days to come India will look back upon this Bill as a stepping stone, and perhaps one of the most important stepping stones, to the fulfilment of her great ambitions ; and that, if the time of stress ever comes, India will not find the Royal Indian Navy wanting.

Mr. S. G. Jog (Berar Representative) : Sir, I did not interfere so long in this debate, because, when the Bill was first introduced, I had given expression to my views in this matter, and there is not much to be said now. However, in this chorus of praise, which we have heard up till now, I am very sorry that I have to strike a discordant note. I for myself do not feel very enthusiastic and cannot offer any enthusiastic reception to the Bill before the House. Many Honourable Members are probably aware of the commotion that was created in this very House in the year 1928, and, after prolonged discussion, the Bill was rejected on certain grounds. Since the year 1928, in these last six years, I must confess that matters have undergone considerable change. Probably those who were on the floor of the House have been raised to another position, and there is a general change brought about in the outlook of Members in general. But to my mind the position remains the same and there is no material difference. At the same time, I must offer my congratulations to the Army Secretary. I have no hesitation in saying that he is a popular Army Member in this House (Applause), that he showed a spirit of great accommodation in the discussion in the Select Committee and he made many concessions. There was, when the Bill was introduced, an attack made by my esteemed friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, that the Bill was not self-contained. My Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, at that time took a sort of defiant attitude. (*Several Honourable Members* : "No, no.") Probably he thought it was an encroachment upon the power of legislation of His Majesty's Government. But when the matter was discussed in the Select Committee he found that there was nothing objectionable in reproducing many of those sections in this Act, and we find that the main ground of objection which was raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, has been removed to a great extent. Whether it was sentiment or otherwise it matters very little to me, but the Act as it is has been made very convenient and for purposes of reference everybody will be satisfied.

Sir, I have got to level a charge against the Members of this House in general. I am not finding fault with any particular Member, but ever since I have been here and even before that, I found that the question of the navy has not attracted the attention of Members of the House to that extent which the army questions attracted. I may make myself bold even to say that many Members of the House have no idea of what this Royal Indian Marine is and what this Royal Indian Navy is. I think many people were ignorant about these things and as to the distinction between the two at the time when this Bill was introduced. The measure before this House, as was observed in the year 1928, is a wrong way of doing probably a right thing. The Navy was brought into creation by an Act of Parliament ; and now this House is only called upon to decide about the change of name of the Royal Indian Marine. I think this is not the proper way of doing things. This House must have an opportunity of creating a navy of our own. This House must have an opportunity of granting the demand for expenses of our navy ; this House must have full control of regulating our navy and it is only then and then alone that this House can be really

[Mr. S. G. Jog.]

proud of having a navy of our own. Till then I consider that this is an insignificant beginning. This is a very meagre beginning, and, as I have said in my note, I would further submit that in the new Constitution, provision should be made for making the navy budget votable. Some of my friends probably would think that this is asking for the moon. It is nothing of the sort. The British angle of vision underwent a rapid change. When the British Government finds that we are capable of managing our own affairs efficiently, the British Government and the British people will at once concede these powers, and I look forward to the day when both the army budget and the navy budget will be discussed and passed by this House. This House is prepared to shoulder the responsibility of a combatant navy; this House will be proud to have an Indian navy of our own. Since we ask for responsibility of governing India, we fully realise the responsibility of taking the defence of India on our own shoulders. The questions about Indianisation and the other questions are to my mind of less significance as compared with this great and major issue which is the main thing. So far as the question of Indianisation is concerned, I make myself bold to charge the Army Authorities in India with having discouraged educated and energetic people from entering upon careers in the navy and army. They do things without giving proper publicity. I can give a challenge to the Army Member: let him tell me how many people he wants as officers in the army and navy and I undertake to bring all the men needed. But Government does these things in a very halting manner. They are bringing forth all these measures in a spirit of distrust still. That old policy of diffidence and distrust is still there. Howsoever the Army Member may say that they are giving all facilities and offering encouragement in all possible ways, I for one must say that all this is done in a halting way. That spirit of distrust is not yet free from their minds. They probably think still that if all these posts of officers are offered to Indians, what will happen? That it is just possible that these officers may turn round against them: I think it is this spirit which is still lurking in their minds and is keeping them away from a bold step of Indianisation. Let me give an assurance to the Army Secretary and to the British Government. Get rid of this suspicion; get rid of this distrust: we will be proud of being part of the Empire: the Empire will be proud of us; we are prepared to share all the responsibility; and let me assure the statesmen that it is trust which begets trust, it is confidence which begets confidence. I know this measure does not go far enough for my aspirations; but a beginning has to be made; and a beginning has been made: if this is allowed to grow in its proper spirit and in its proper proportions, a time will come when we will be proud of our own navy. This half-hearted report, or whatever we may call it, of the Select Committee may be taken into consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby: Sir, I should like to thank the House very much indeed for the sympathetic way in which Honourable Members have spoken of this Bill, particularly as only a short six years ago the House decided that they would not touch this very Bill with a pair of tongs. As regards the question of future expansion, what I said was merely that this Bill does not commit this House or anybody else to spending any more money upon the expansion of the Indian Navy. But I also said that I had little doubt that Government would be only too glad to fall into line

with any suggestion backed by Indian public opinion to increase India's navy, provided always that the money was available. I meant merely to give the impression that Government do not intend to increase the cost of the navy unless they have public opinion behind them.

My Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, referred to the excessive size of the officer staff of the service. Some 25 per cent. of this staff is employed in Mercantile Marine appointments under Local Governments, as Nautical Surveyors and Principal Officers in the various Ports. These officers are borne on the cadre of the Royal Indian Marine, but they are not paid from the Royal Indian Marine budget. They perform a very necessary service to India, and there is nobody else in any other service as yet who can perform the various duties they perform. Ultimately, when the Indian mercantile marine has been placed on a more definite footing, thanks to the training of suitable officers in the Training Ship "Dufferin", these duties will undoubtedly be performed by officers of the mercantile marine. For the present, however, the Royal Indian Marine officers are filling a gap which could otherwise only be filled by importing officers from outside India.

As regards the question of Indianisation, it was definitely stated during the debate in 1928 that the ratio of one in three which had been accepted as the basis of Indianisation would mean only one Indian officer a year added to the staff of the Royal Indian Marine. In actual fact the first officer was taken on in 1928 and in six years we have got 14 officers and officers designate instead of the six that might have been expected (*Mr. N. C. Mitra* : "Very good"), and we are looking round for four more this year. So I really think that we have not done so badly. As I said earlier in the day we have to judge of the correctness of the steps that we are taking as regards recruitment and training, and we have not got very much on which to base our judgment at present. It must be remembered that the earlier training of these officers takes time, it takes five years to train an engineer officer. But I can assure the House that, when we have more out of the 14 officers actually serving with the fleet, we will consider very carefully whether we can increase the proportion above one in three. (Cheers.)

The impression was given by one speaker that we were not making use of the Training Ship "Dufferin" as a source from which to obtain officers for the Marine. Our trouble has been that we once gave a guarantee in this House that we would obtain our Indian officers for the service by open competitive examination. The open competitive examination failed us, and, comparatively recently, we had to start taking cadets from the Training Ship "Dufferin". I may say that the boys we have taken from that source have done extraordinarily well. (Hear, hear.) In October next, we are having another examination ; and at least one vacancy will be open to the cadets of the "Dufferin".

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, referred to the question of racial discrimination. I do not think I need say very much on that subject. There is no racial discrimination in the service. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I myself said so.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. B. Lumby : I am just giving the guarantee he asked for. As regards the question of the Admiralty commandeering the

[Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby.]

ships of the Royal Indian Marine for purposes unconnected with the defence of India, I should like, if I may, to read an extract from the speech that I made in an earlier stage of this Bill on this very subject. What I said was :

“ In addition, as was announced to the House during the last debate on this Bill, it is the intention of the Government of India to consult the Legislature in future, so far as may be possible, whenever any question arises of lending the Indian Navy to His Majesty's Government for operations other than in the defence of India. I assure the House that this is a definite pledge and not merely a formula of words.” (Cheers.)

I should just like to refer to what was called “ my defiant attitude ”. The reason for “ my defiant attitude ” was that I understood that legally it would not be possible to reproduce the Act in any other form than that in which we originally put it before the House. What was described as my concession was the result of the legal advice that I received.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But was your attitude defiant ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Finally, Sir, I would say that if today is going to mark the first stage in the passing of this Bill by the Central Legislature and the first step in the final stage of the creation of an Indian Navy, I think that it will go down to posterity as a very important date in the history of India. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to provide for the application of the Naval Discipline Act to the Indian Navy, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

Mr. G. H. Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) : Sir, I move :

“ That in the First Schedule to the Bill, in regulation (1) in clause 53 of the Naval Discipline Act, after the words and figures ‘ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898,’ the words ‘ save that such powers shall not be exercisable by the Local Government ; ’ be inserted.”

Sir, the effect of regulation (1) as it stands would be to vest the powers to suspend, remit or commute sentences concurrently in the Governor General in Council and the Local Government. It is considered undesirable that powers of this nature should be exercised by Local Governments in respect of punishments inflicted on members of the Indian navy for offences committed in their capacity as such, and the effect of this amendment would be to render the powers of suspension, remission and commutation exercisable exclusively by the Governor General in Council. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
The question is :

“ That in the First Schedule to the Bill, in regulation (1) in clause 53 of the Naval Discipline Act, after the words and figures ‘ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898,’ the words ‘ save that such powers shall not be exercisable by the Local Government ; ’ be inserted.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
The question is :

“ That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
Motion moved :

“ That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I just want to draw the attention of the House to one point which perhaps is hardly appropriate on a third reading stage. I had no opportunity to mention it during discussion in the second reading, and that is the difficulty of obtaining suitable Indian candidates. I know that there is some difficulty about this. In the first place, this naval career is not so well known to many parents as the military career is. Everybody knows about the military career, but in Upper India at least, people do not understand what a naval career means. They have never seen a ship nor have they seen a sea. The second point is that the number of recruits is so small, that people do not think it worth while to try for the job. One man or two men are recruited every year for the whole of India by open competitive examination, and when you have an examination for the whole of India to recruit one man, then everybody feels shy saying what is the use of trying for it. But if the number of recruits every year be six to ten, then you will find a large number of good candidates competing for these vacancies. But since the recruitment is so small, everybody shoves the responsibility on to the other like the story of the tank which was filled with water instead of with milk.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) :
What is the story ? (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : A king once ordered all his subjects to bring in one pitcher of milk and fill up the tank. Everybody
4 P.M. body thought that the others would bring in milk and so he brought a pitcher of water thinking that it would not be noticed by anybody. Everybody thought in the same manner with the result that the tank was filled with water and there was no trace of milk. (Laughter.)

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

Similarly, when the recruitment is so small, nobody takes the examination seriously, and that is the reason why candidates are not forthcoming. The Honourable Member himself informed us that there is now a new avenue by means of which really good candidates could be obtained, and that is the "Dufferin". The training ship "Dufferin" is well known on account of the publicity that has been given to it, and really good cadets join that ship and the training given there is to my mind the second best,—the best being that given in the Prince of Wales Schools in Dehra Dun. The "Dufferin" gives very good training and I am sure that the cadets selected from that ship will prove to be as good as any you can select from any part of the British dominions. If you rely upon this new field of recruitment, I am sure Government will be able to get really good candidates; and it will be good advertisement for the "Dufferin" as well. If it is publicly known that the candidates have got another avenue for employment in the British Navy, then a better class of people and abler students will join the school. Even now we find really good candidates try to join. Competition is fairly strong. Out of about 200 candidates who sit in the competitive examination, the school can admit only 30 and all of them are really very good candidates. So they are selected after a very careful competition and they are kept under proper supervision. If "Dufferin" could afford and admit more candidates, this question of wanting in good candidates will vanish. Here we have got a certain number of men who know what a naval career is. They have been selected carefully from among the candidates in the whole of India and on this point I congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member very strongly, because, under his supervision and direction, the school has made enormous progress. The career open to the candidates was very limited three years ago. A new department is opened this year, *i.e.*, Marine Engineering, which is now assuming great importance. On account of this new career, larger number of good Indians contemplate joining the school. If the Army Department fall back upon "Dufferin" as a possible avenue, they will get very good candidates, as good candidates for the Navy as they can find anywhere in the British dominions.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I think that my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, was absent from the House.....

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I was present in the House. I ought to have raised this point before the speech of the Honourable Member, but I had no chance.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As a result probably of the publicity given to this Bill we have been able to obtain for the open examination in October a larger number of candidates than we have had before. I have already said that we are making use of the "Dufferin" as a channel of recruitment. Between the two channels, I hope that we shall get as many really first class candidates as we want for the Indian Navy which will, I feel sure, come into being very shortly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE AMENDING BILL.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

There is nothing contentious about this Bill. It is a direct consequence of the passing of the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act, in that it seeks to give to the members of the new Royal Indian Navy the same civil rights and liabilities as are already possessed by the personnel of His Majesty's Military and Air Forces. To attain this object, it is necessary to make formal amendments in a number of existing laws. The majority of the amendments consist in adding the word “ sailor ” between the words “ soldier ” and “ airman ”, in adding a reference to the Naval Discipline Act or that Act as modified by the Indian Navy (Discipline) Act beside the references to the Indian Army Act and other similar enactments, or in omitting references to the Royal Indian Marine. In one or two cases, the opportunity has been taken to provide for “ airmen ” also where they have been omitted before.

To take a typical example, the amendment to the Indian Oaths Act, which is, I think, at the top of page 2 of the Bill, merely seeks to enable an officer commanding a ship of the Royal Indian Navy to administer oaths and affirmations in the discharge of his duties in the same way as the Commanding Officer of any military or air force station can at present. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : I am going to support this motion simply because I was terrified by the show of books which the Honourable Member has placed on the table in one breath. I was just going to ask what those books were. In this connection I am reminded of a story. One man had a *Sil*, the piece of stone on which we usually grind spices. He wrapped it up in cloth and in a big assembly of learned men, where there was a controversy going on, he brought this particular piece of stone wrapped and presented it to those learned men who were terrified and asked him what book it was. He said the book was called *Sillatain*, the plural of *Sil*. I do not know exactly what these books relate to. Are they books or only *Sillatain* ? After seeing this terrifying array of books, there is no option for us but to support this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Bill to amend certain enactments be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir **Shanmukham Chetty**) : The question is :

“ That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1931-32.

STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 5,762 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Stamps ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,12,238 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,62,750 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,69,155 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : May I ask a question ? I find there was no amount granted by the Assembly—grant was *nil*. Why is that so ? How then can it be an excess grant ? It is an additional grant, because, as it appears from this paper, there was no grant made.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, the explanation of that is contained on page 6 of the Report signed by the Honourable Member of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32, paragraph 15.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : This is the expenditure for the year 1931-32, which we sanctioned in February 1931. So, in February 1931, the scheme of retrenchment did not start ; practically, the Retrenchment Committee met later on in 1931. Therefore, we did not know, at the time we passed the Budget, whether there would be some retrenchment or not and whether some gratuities and other payments would be made or not.

After this retrenchment scheme was started, it was discovered that expenditure to a certain extent would have to be incurred on account of concessions to retrenched personnel. There was nothing in the original Budget; it was incurred on account of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,69,155 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 5,88,307 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DELHI.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,05,697 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Delhi ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO CAPITAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,42,779 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital ’.”

Mr. S. C. Mitra : May I ask why this excess expenditure for 1931-32 is coming up so late along with the other item for 1932-33 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I understand—I have no personal knowledge—the reason was that the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32 was presented so late in the Session that there was no time to discuss it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Excess grants arise out of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : That was about the railway portion, but the civil part, Part I, of the Public Accounts Committee's Report, was presented during the last Simla Session, and there was no reason, so far as this part was concerned, apart from the railway portion, why it was not presented in the winter Session at Delhi.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am very inexperienced in these matters, but is it not a fact that the report of the Public Accounts Committee must be considered as a whole, and that until the railway portion is available, the report of the Committee as a whole is not available for discussion ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,42,779 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,49,498 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1931-32 in respect of ‘ Appropriation to Depreciation Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1932-33.

IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, ETC., CHARGED TO REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 52,133 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Irrigation, Navigation, etc., charged to Revenue ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,44,368 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SURVEY OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 60,402 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Survey of India ’.”

The motion was adopted.

AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 26,939 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

The motion was adopted.

EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 28,675 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Emigration—External ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 83,153 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Indian Stores Department ’.”

The motion was adopted.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,61,394 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 345 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 12,00,228 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,207 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Andamans and Nicobar Islands ’.”

The motion was adopted.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 9,23,730 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the expenditure chargeable to Capital actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Commuted value of Pensions ’.”

The motion was adopted.

INSPECTION.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 3,008 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Inspection ’.”

The motion was adopted.

AUDIT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 28,640 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Audit ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION TO DEPRECIATION FUND—COMMERCIAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 2,15,627 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Appropriation to Depreciation Fund—Commercial ’.”

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION FROM DEPRECIATION FUND.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That an excess grant of Rs. 1,63,47,635 be voted by the Assembly to regularise the railway expenditure chargeable to Revenue actually incurred in excess of the voted grant in the year 1932-33 in respect of ‘ Appropriation from Depreciation Fund ’.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair finds that there are just two more items on the Agenda, that is the discussion on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee and a further demand for supplementary grant relating, it appears, to the Pusa Institute. The Chair was told by the Leader of the House yesterday that Government would probably put down a motion relating to salt to be discussed by the House.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Leader of the House) : At the request of certain Honourable Members of the Opposition, Government would like to implement their promise to give them an opportunity of discussing the question of salt, and, if time is available for that purpose, I would suggest that the matter be taken up on Friday.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : We have got two more days, tomorrow and the day after. It is, therefore, for the House to decide how they would like to distribute the time available for discussion of these three items. Tomorrow, in the evening, there is a party by His Excellency the Viceroy, and, therefore, the Chair proposes to adjourn the House tomorrow four o'clock. If it is the intention of the Honourable Members that they should have more time to discuss, for instance, the motion relating to the Pusa Institute, the Chair has no objection to sit earlier tomorrow.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : We shall be able to finish tomorrow at four o'clock all of the items, except the Salt Resolution.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadian) : In the two days we shall be able to dispose of all the items.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Then the House does not want to sit late today and take up these items. There are three items remaining on the Agenda, discussion on the report of the Public Accounts Committee, a further demand for supplementary grants and a motion relating to salt, and it is understood that all these items will be finished by not later than Friday afternoon.

Some Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, may I ask your permission formally to move the motion relating to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, because I want to make a request to Honourable Members opposite who desire to raise points. I will not take up more than a few minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the locomotive running shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

Sir, as I said, I do not want to make a long speech in making this motion, because the main object of the motion is to let Honourable Members opposite make their observations on the reports. The only thing I wish to say in regard to the actual reports is, that the latter part of this motion is necessary in view of the decision of the Public Accounts Committee that the two items referred to should be treated as new service and as such the incurring of expenditure on them without the previous sanction of the House requires to be regularised. The request I shall make to Honourable Members opposite is this. I think it would be a convenience for which I, at any rate, should be grateful, and I am sure the representatives of other Government Departments would be grateful if Honourable Members who wish to raise points on the Public Accounts Committee report would give notice of their

[Sir James Grigg.]

intention to do so to the departments concerned in order that their representatives may be in their place and be prepared to deal with all the points raised. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the locomotive running shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I ask a question now without giving up my right of speaking tomorrow on this motion ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : From what fund do Government propose to pay for the expenses of the alteration of the shed at Bhusawal and on the installation of this wireless set ? Is it from the depreciation fund or capital fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : May I take it that the Honourable Member is giving notice of his intention to ask the Financial Commissioner for Railways that question tomorrow ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Yes.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I intend to speak on the Army Department, the Railway Department and the debt position of the Government of India and also on the abolition of the Indian Stores Department attached to the High Commissioner's Office in London. I do not know which gentleman of the Treasury Bench this question affects, whether it is the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce or the Leader of the House, but I hope they will settle it between themselves.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 30th August, 1934.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 30th August, 1934.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RELIEVING OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

865. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the results of the last economic conference and the steps that have been taken to give effect to its recommendations ?

(b) Has the conference come to any conclusion and found out causes for agricultural depression ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in respect of relieving the agricultural distress due to the following activities of Government, which they stated in their reply to the debate on the resolution regarding the committee of enquiry on agricultural distress on the 6th April, 1934, that action is being taken by it :

(i) as a result of action taken by it on the report of Royal Commission on agriculture ;

(ii) as a result of the activities of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ;

(iii) as a result of the trade agreement, under the Ottawa Pact and with other nations ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Resolution, dated the 5th of May, 1934, on the subject of the Provincial Economic Conference. Information regarding further action taken on the recommendations of the Conference will be found in the proceedings of the Crop Planning Conference which was held on the 8th and 9th of June, 1934, and in the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 25th instant. In addition to the proposals explained in these proceedings, it is proposed to establish an Indian Trade Commissioner for Italy within the next few months, and the officer selected for this appointment has already proceeded to London to complete his training.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the following reports, copies of which are available, or will shortly be available, in the Library of the House :

(1) Reports showing the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Three reports on this subject have already been published, and the fourth report, which will cover the years 1932 and 1933, is now under preparation.

(2) The annual reports of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

(3) The report of the Committee elected by this House to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement.

Apart from the Ottawa Agreement the only trade agreement which has so far been concluded is the Indo-Japanese Convention and Protocol signed on the 12th of July, 1934.

U Ba Maung : What steps are Government taking to secure the benefit which Indian agriculture was intended to get from the imposition of a duty on foreign rice imported into the United Kingdom, such benefit not having accrued to Indian agriculture, because Government's representatives at Ottawa omitted to ask for a duty to be put on foreign paddy which might be imported into the United Kingdom ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have a recollection, Sir, that the question of securing some preference for Indian paddy in the British market is under consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I hope Indian paddy includes Sind paddy also ?

DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURAL LAND IN NORTH BIHAR.

877. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Are Government aware that Sir George Schuster, as Finance Member, made the following statement, in the course of his Budget speech on the 27th February, 1934, in reference to the damage to agricultural land over wide areas in the North of Bihar due to the deposit of sand owing to the earthquake :

" We are undertaking the liability for the cost of any measures of assistance to agriculturists that may be decided upon to the extent that it cannot be met from the Provincial Government's Famine Relief Fund " ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons, Financial Secretary to the Government of India, made the following statement in the course of his Budget speech on the 27th February, 1934, in the Council of State, in the same connection :

" We are undertaking to bear the cost of such measures as may be found practicable and desirable to re-condition agricultural land, in so far as the Famine Relief Fund is insufficient " ?

(c) Will Government kindly state what is meant by their undertaking " to bear the cost " of measures for sand clearance ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa have advanced merely *Takavi* loans on joint security system, to the agriculturists who possess more than one acre of land which has suffered from a deposit of sand ?

(e) Will Government kindly state whether they meant merely the advance of *Takavi* loans, when they undertook " to bear the cost " of sand clearance ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Local Government have been advancing *Takavi* loans from their Finance Relief Fund ? If so, is that permissible ? Have any instructions been issued by the Government of India in this connection ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The reference was to any expenditure that might be directly incurred by Government either on the re-conditioning of land by Government agency or by way of non-recoverable grants to individual cultivators.

(d) The Government of India are aware that in addition to free grants to cultivators the Government of Bihar and Orissa are making *taccavi* advances for the purpose of sand clearance. They have not been informed of the detailed conditions on which the *taccavi* advances are made, or of the criteria laid down by the Government of Bihar and Orissa for determining when resort should be had to *taccavi* advances, or when free grant should be given. These are matters which are entirely within the discretion of the Provincial Government, and in which the Government of India are not prepared to interfere.

(e) I am not sure that I fully understand the question. It was, of course, realised at a very early stage that *taccavi* advances would be one of the methods of dealing with the sand clearance problem, and the Government of India sanctioned special terms for the loan which the Provincial Government is taking through the Provincial Loans Fund for the purpose of making these advances. Another of the methods is the distribution of free grants to individual agriculturists whose resources are not such as to warrant their taking a *taccavi* advance; and possibly in some cases the two methods are being combined. When the Provincial Government's balance in the Famine Relief Fund is exhausted, the cost of these free grants will be borne by the Government of India, and it is to this that my predecessor and Sir Alan Parsons referred in the remarks which the Honourable Member has quoted.

(f) Initially some *taccavi* advances were made from the Local Government's balance in their Famine Relief Fund, but the sums involved have now been adjusted against the loan taken by the Provincial Government from the Provincial Loans Fund.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: With regard to the answer to part (e), will Government kindly state when they envisaged the possibility of advancing *taccavi* loans as a means for sand clearance?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not prepared to give any specific date about that. My information is that it was realised at a very early stage that *taccavi* advances will be one of the methods of dealing with the sand clearance problem.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: What I want to know is this. Is there anything in the budget speeches of the Honourable Sir George Schuster or the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons or any communiqué of the Government of India which states that *taccavi* advances will be one of the forms by which the work of sand clearance can be undertaken?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not gather that either the statement of Sir George Schuster or that of Sir Alan Parsons was intended to cover all possible circumstances which could arise, and, therefore, if they do not state so specifically, I do not see that any conclusion can be drawn from that. The fact that they did not state that *taccavi* advances will be given does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that the whole of the question of sand clearance should be dealt

with by free grants rather than advances. As a matter of fact, I understand, and the House will be very glad to know, that the amount of damage done by sand has been very much over-estimated, and I believe that the problem has been reduced to very small dimensions, because a great deal of the sand has, in fact, been washed away by the rains.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then do I understand the Government of India to resile from the position which they took up when Sir George Schuster made his speech, namely, that the Government of India would bear the cost of sand clearance ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Sir, in view of recent events in this House, I have to be very careful before making any comments on promises or alleged promises made by my predecessor. I will, therefore, look into it and speak to the Honourable Member about it. I cannot give any further answer at the moment.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : With regard to part (f) of my question, is it in order under the rules to make advances out of the Famine Relief Fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member had better not ask me. The position is being rectified now.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do I take it that all moneys which have been spent for the clearance of sand are in the nature of free grants and not *taccavi* loans ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir. What I understand is that the giving of *taccavi* advances from the Famine Relief Fund has been discontinued, and the money taken from the Famine Relief Fund for *taccavi* advances has been replaced.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then, does it mean that the money advanced out of the Famine Relief Fund has not been advanced as *taccavi* loans, but as free grants, now that the accounts have been adjusted according to the statement of the Honourable Member ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have said in the last part of paragraph (e) of my answer that when the Provincial Government's balance in the Famine Relief Fund is exhausted, the cost of these free grants will be borne by the Government of India. The presumption is that the Famine Relief Fund is being used predominantly, if not entirely, for free grants.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : In as much as there is great confusion in the minds of those who have been given grants for sand clearance, will Government take the trouble of elucidating this point very clearly in the light of the promise made by Sir George Schuster ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The question of grant or advance and the responsibility for clearing up any confusion which may exist in the minds of people is entirely one for the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa have been advancing *taccavi* loans to a person having one acre or more of land which has been damaged by sand, but they have been giving free grants to persons who own less than one acre of land which has been damaged by earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am quite prepared to take that information from the Honourable Member.

RELIEF TO PETTY SHOPKEEPERS IN THE EARTHQUAKE-STRIKEN AREA OF BIHAR.

878. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) Will Government kindly state what plan is being pursued to give relief to those petty shopkeepers in the earthquake-stricken area of Bihar, who may have lost their assets, but who do not hold any house property ?

(b) Are Government aware that in the course of his Budget speech, on the 27th February, 1934, Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member, referred to "the question of assisting private individuals to re-build their houses and shops" by means of "free grants", and the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons also stated that assistance to those private individuals whose "small houses and shops" have been destroyed must "take the form of free grants" ? Is this policy being pursued ? If so, what amount of money has been given as "free grants" up to date to persons whose shops have been destroyed ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to sub-paragraph 1 of paragraph 41 (c) of my predecessor's speech introducing the Budget for 1934-35. As stated therein, the problem referred to by the Honourable Member has to be dealt with by means of free grants from the Viceroy's and other relief funds and it is for the committees administering the funds to decide in which cases grants should be made.

(b) Government are aware of the remarks made by my predecessor and Sir Alan Parsons. They referred, of course, to grants for re-building shops and not for replacing the stock, etc., held in the shops. The actual amount of grants given up-to-date is not known.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government say whether they are prepared to give relief themselves, or they have merely shoved the responsibility on to the Committee which administers the Viceroy's Fund ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think "shoved" is rather a prejudicial word, but not a very inaccurate one perhaps.

Mr. E. Studd : With reference to shops, are Government prepared to impress upon the Bihar and Orissa Government the necessity for an improved lay-out in these devastated towns so as to do away with the old slum areas ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I gather that has already been done.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government prepared to finance the Government of Bihar and Orissa for undertaking the improvements to which reference has been made by my Honourable friend who has just put this question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That certainly is not a question I am prepared to answer on the spur of the moment.

Mr. F. E. James : The Honourable the Finance Member said in reply to the supplementary question of my Honourable colleague, Mr. Studd, that the policy of improving these slum areas in the devastated towns is being carried out.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I did not say : I said I imagined that the attention of the Government of Bihar and Orissa had already been drawn to the desirability of that.

Mr. F. E. James : I want to know whether the Honourable gentleman is prepared once more to call the attention of the Bihar and Orissa Government to the necessity of taking that action as there seems to be very considerable evidence that that action is not being fully carried out.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have no objection whatever to forwarding a copy of the two Honourable Member's questions to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the Government of Bihar and Orissa are a little bit stolid in these matters ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is not a question which it would be proper for me to answer.

REDUCTION OF THE PAY OF SUPERNUMERARY CLERKS AT THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

888. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the substantive pay of supernumerary clerks at the Army Headquarters has been limited to Rs 170 per mensem and those originally getting more than this have been brought down to this pay ? If so, has this been done with the sanction of the Secretary of State or the Army Department, or have the Branches of the Army Headquarters done it of their own accord ? If the Branches have done it themselves, under what authority, rule or order has it been done ?

(b) Have the names of the clerks, whose pay has been reduced, been brought to the notice of the Public Service Commission with a view to these men being provided with appointments elsewhere in the Divisions for which they are qualified and where they can draw their original rates of pay ? If not, why not ?

(c) What are the chances of the supernumerary clerks at the Army Headquarters being restored to their original rates of pay and increments ? Have any orders been issued for not filling by outside recruitment the vacancies of these men so long as they are not absorbed ? If not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that no personal allowance has been given to the supernumerary men at Army Headquarters whose pay has been reduced ? If so, why ?

(e) Is it a fact that some supernumerary clerks of the Adjutant General's Branch were absorbed in the M. G. O. Branch ? If so, why have not similar efforts at absorption been made for clerks of other Branches ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The position is, that on the introduction of the Third (Routine) Division in Army Headquarters in 1929, those permanent clerks of the Second Division, who were in excess of the authorised strength of that Division, were held as supernumeraries in that Division. They were placed on a general Army Headquarters roll and the majority of them were absorbed in the vacancies occurring

in the several Branches of Army Headquarters during the period 1929 to 1933. In 1933, as a measure of retrenchment, the few who were still supernumerary were given the option of being relegated to the Third Division or of retiring under the special retrenchment terms. They accepted the first alternative, and their pay was fixed in the scale of pay laid down for the Third Division, viz., Rs. 90—4—170. The orders were issued by the Government of India ; the approval of the Secretary of State was not necessary.

(b) No, Sir, because the Public Service Commission are not concerned with inter-departmental transfers.

(c) Under the existing orders, a 'relegated' clerk is restored to his original grade on the occurrence of the first vacancy in that grade, subject, of course, to his fitness for such promotion. No separate orders on this point are necessary.

(d) No personal allowance is admissible in such circumstances.

(e) As stated in reply to part (a) a great majority of these supernumerary clerks were absorbed in vacancies which occurred in the Second Division prior to 1933.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether or not it is a fact that it is the intention of the Government of India to standardise the pay for the clerks in their offices, civil and military, British or Indian ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : No : there is no such intention.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

889. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement showing by Branches of the Army Headquarters the number of clerks who were qualified only for the Routine Division by the Public Service Commission but who were promoted, temporarily or permanently, to the Second Division, for which they were not qualified, by the Branches without previous consultation with the Public Service Commission during the last three years (1934 included) ? What is the rule, order or authority for such promotion ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : A statement is laid on the table which covers both the Honourable Member's questions.

Statement showing the number of clerks promoted permanently or temporarily to the Second Division in the Branches of Army Headquarters, who have not qualified for that division during the last three years.

Two third division clerks were promoted permanently to the second division in the Office of the Assistant Director, Ordnance Services (Provision) with the concurrence of the Public Service Commission. Nine third division clerks were promoted temporarily to the second division in the Office of the Master-General of Ordnance Branch under the orders regulating the recruitment to the ministerial establishment of the Government of India Secretariat and Attached Offices. No such promotion was made in any other Branch of Army Headquarters.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

890. ***Mr. F. E. James** (on behalf of Sir Darcy Lindsay) : Will Government please state whether they have given consideration to the

suggestion put forward during the consideration of the Finance Bill at the last Session that an Advisory Committee to the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be appointed by the Legislative Assembly, similar to the Advisory Committees that exist in other Departments, to whom questions regarding the increase or decrease of postal rates and kindred matters could be referred before definite action is taken to bring any such proposed changes into force ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have considered the suggestion and are of opinion that a separate Advisory Committee should be appointed for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Before taking further action, they decided to consult the Standing Advisory Committee for the Department of Industries and Labour. The matter was placed before that Committee at a meeting held this morning and the Committee concurred in the view that the constitution of a separate Committee was desirable.

Mr. F. E. James : May I ask whether any decision has been arrived at as to the composition of the Committee—whether the Committee should be elected by this House only or by both Chambers of the Central Legislature ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Committee will be formed on the usual lines : as in the case of other advisory committees, it will include Members of both Houses.

REDUCTION OF POSTAL RATES ON CIRCULAR LETTERS AND OTHER PRINTED MATTER.

891. ***Mr. F. E. James** (on behalf of Sir Darcy Lindsay) : (a) Will Government please state whether they have given further consideration to the submission made in March last, that the increase of three pies in the postage on all circular letters and other printed matter, usually enclosed in open envelopes, imposes a serious hardship on the retail trade of the country and other interests who habitually use this form of postage for advertisement purposes ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the increase of three pies was not imposed for revenue purposes but to defeat certain alleged evasion of correct postage rates by post card users ?

(c) Will Government please state whether they propose to restore the former rate of six pies for this class of postage, and, if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under examination in the light of information which is being collected in regard to the effect of the new rate.

RECRUITMENT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS TO THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

892. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) With reference to the reply to question No. 64 (a) of the 12th March, 1930, asked in the Council of State, will Government kindly state whether *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force, who have held both Honorary King's and Viceroy's

Commissions but did not fulfil their engagements with that Force and resigned before their term, are eligible to join the Army in India Reserve of Officers with seniority of previous service in Infantry, etc., category ? If so, do Government propose to amend the regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers accordingly ?

(b) With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 323 (d) of the 12th February, 1932, will Government kindly state whether *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force, who have held both Honorary King's and Viceroy's Commissions and at present holding a Government appointment of non-gazetted status, are eligible to join the Army in India Reserve of Officers with seniority of previous service in Infantry, etc., category ? If so, do Government propose to amend the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers accordingly ?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to give an early opportunity to the said *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force for recruitment in the Army in India Reserve of Officers ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) Such gentlemen are eligible for consideration for appointment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers, but, if as officers of the Indian Territorial Force they did not fulfil their engagements, they are unlikely to be accepted. In the event of their being accepted, they would already, under paragraph 7 (c) of the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers, contained in Appendix XXX to Regulations for the Army in India, be entitled to count half their service as Viceroy's commissioned officers for the purpose of seniority in the Reserve.

(b) No. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 5 (i) of the Regulations for the Army in India Reserve of Officers. Government do not propose to amend the Regulations in this respect.

(c) Recruitment to the Army in India Reserve of Officers is still suspended pending approval by the Secretary of State to new rules framed in connection with the re-organisation of the Reserve. When recruitment is re-opened *ex-Officers* of the Indian Territorial Force of the category mentioned in (a) above will, as previously, be eligible for consideration for appointment.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Have the Government of India any idea of establishing branches of the Indian Territorial Force in those Provinces where it does not exist ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think that question really arises, but at the present time there is no intention of raising any further units of the Territorial Force for reasons of economy.

EFFECT OF THE EXTRA DUTY LEVIED ON LIGHT DIESEL OIL ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

893. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** (on behalf of Mr. K. P. Thampan) : Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report from the Provincial Governments regarding the effect of the extra duty levied (under Act XXVIII of 1933) on light diesel oil on agricultural and industrial interests ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Yes. The general consensus of opinion is that the effect has been negligible.

TESTS ON DIESEL OIL CARRIED OUT BY THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

894. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** (on behalf of Mr. K. P. Thampan) :
(a) Have Government received through the Central Board of Revenue any representation from the National Petroleum Company, Bombay, protesting against the manner in which the tests under the provisions of Act XXVIII of 1933 are carried out by the Customs Department and the hardships they are put to thereby ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Department has violated the undertaking given by the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, to the effect that the difference "between the typical Burma red kerosene and anything which could be brought in under this provision should not be more than 15 per cent." ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the certificate given by the Alipore Test House, the diesel oil imported by the National Petroleum Company is very much below the prescribed difference of 15 per cent. both in flame and duration tests, and still the Customs Department treat that oil as ordinary kerosene ? If so, why ?

(d) Have Government carried out any test on "typical red kerosene", and if so, what were the results with regard to flame height and duration ? When were the tests carried out by the chemists ?

(e) In cases of honest difference of opinion between an Importer and the Customs Department in such matters, what is the remedy open to the former ? Is there any appeal ? If so, to whom ?

(f) Will Government please lay a copy of the Rules framed under the Act in regard to the tests and the manner in which they are to be carried out ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) No. In the course of the same debate Sir George Schuster subsequently indicated more precisely that the proposed criterion was a flame height of 10 mm. in the standard smoke-point lamp. This criterion has been applied.

(c) The samples submitted to the Alipore Test House were not drawn under customs supervision, and the results of the tests made on such samples were, therefore, entirely inadmissible as evidence for purposes of assessment.

(d) Yes. Tests were made at the end of December, 1933, which showed that B.O.C. Victoria brand gave a flame height of 11.0 mm. in the standard smoke-point lamp. Its luminosity, according to another test, dropped from 12.5 candle-power to 10.0 candle-power after four hours' burning.

(e) Under section 188 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, an appeal lies from the order of the Collector of Customs to the Chief Customs-Authority, i.e., the Central Board of Revenue ; and under section 191 of that Act application may be made to the Governor General in Council by

any aggrieved person to revise any decision or order of the Chief Customs-Authority.

(f) A copy of the Rules is laid on the table.

CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

NOTIFICATION.

CUSTOMS.

New Delhi, the 23rd December, 1933.

No. 67.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 195A of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Central Board of Revenue is pleased to make the following rules :

1. In any case of dispute whether a mineral oil is or is not suitable for use as an illuminant in wick lamps a sample of the oil shall be tested with the aid of a Smoke Point lamp constructed in accordance with the specification contained in Annexure I, and the flame height of the sample shall be determined in accordance with the method set forth in Annexure II.

2. If the flame height determined in accordance with rule 1 is above 10 millimetres, but not otherwise, the mineral oil shall be deemed to be suitable for use as an illuminant in wick lamps.

RAM NATH,

Secretary, Central Board of Revenue.

ANNEXURE I.

The lamp shall be the I. P. T. Smoke Point Lamp* and shall conform with the dimensions given in the attached drawing and with the following requirements :

1. The top of the wick guide shall be exactly level with the zero mark on the scale.

2. The scale shall be marked in white lines on each side of a white strip, 2 mm. in width, on black glass. It shall have a range of 50 mm., graduated in 1 mm., figured at each 10 mm., with longer lines at each 5 mm.

3. The screw of the device for raising or lowering the flame shall be threaded 6.2 mm., diam. by 0.5 mm. pitch, and the total distance of travel shall not be less than 10 mm. The movement shall be smooth and regular.

4. The glass window of the door shall be concave to prevent the formation of multiple images.

5. The wick holder shall be 4.7 mms. internal diameter.

6. The wick shall be of uniform quality, conforming to the following specification ;—

To be woven solid circular, the Cotton to be of American yarn, ordinary quality.

Casing—17 Ends, 3 Ply, Nines Count.

Filling—9 Ends, 4 Ply, Sixes Count.

Wet—2 Ply, Fifteens Count.

Ticks per inch—15.

ANNEXURE II.

Apparatus.—The test shall be carried out in the I. P. T. Smoke Point Lamp as defined in Annexure I and the wick used shall be the wick specified, in Annexure I. Only uniform pieces of wick free from all irregularities shall be used for tests.

The test shall be carried out in a room or enclosure kept within the temperature limits of 80 and 85° Fahrenheit.

*The diagram of the lamp not printed in these debates.

2. *Conditioning the Wick and Application of Standard Test.*—Before use in the standard test all new wicks shall be conditioned by means of two cleaning and burning cycles as specified below with a white kerosene, followed by further cleaning and drying. If used otherwise than immediately after conditioning they shall be re-dried at 100—105° Centigrade just before use in the standard test.

When used for a standard test they shall be cut to lengths of five and a half inches and no wick in this test shall be less than five inches in length.

Detail.—

(a) *Treatment of the New Wick.*—The new wick, carefully selected, to be free from all visible flaws, shall be cut to a length of six inches and then extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus, firstly with petroleum ether (Boiling range 60—80° C.) for at least three siphoning cycles, and then with sulphuric ether for two siphoning cycles.

The wick shall then be dried for thirty minutes at 100—105° Centigrade in an electric oven.

(b) *Preparation of the lamp assembly.*—(NOTE :—The following details, including those in the next sub-paragraph, regarding burning apply both to wick conditioning and to the standard burning test).

(i) Twenty millimetres of oil (white kerosene in the conditioning operation) previously filtered through filter paper shall be introduced by means of a small funnel (care being taken to avoid fouling the air-inlet tube) into the cleaned and dried oil holder which shall then be placed vertically in a drying oven maintained at 100—105° Fahrenheit, a cylinder containing the oil to a depth of six inches being also placed in the same oven.

(ii) The dried wick shall be immersed in this column of oil for 10 minutes after the oil has attained the oven temperature: it shall then be taken out and fitted into the wick holder.

(iii) This shall be done by inserting the non-burning end of the wick (which must be trimmed free from overlapping or frayed edges in order to prevent jamming caused by compression in the tube) carefully into the burning end of the wick holder, and then pushing with a screw motion until the wick protrudes about a quarter of an inch from the other end.

(iv) All twists arising from this operation shall be eased out by putting slight tension on the wick and pulling it gently to and fro along the tube until no further tendency to untwist is seen and the wick weave is straight.

(v) Both ends of the wick shall in turn be made to protrude as far as possible from the tube and soaked separately in the oil, but the short end of the wick shall not be allowed to enter the tube, while this is done.

Somewhat more than one-eighth of an inch of the soaked wick shall be allowed finally to protrude from the burning end of the tube, after which the wick shall be trimmed with a very sharp instrument in such a manner that it is flat and horizontal with a slightly bevelled rim with no frayed ends.

The wick shall then be drawn down until exactly one-eighth inch protrudes.

(vi) The wick holder shall then be screwed carefully into the wick holder in such a way that the wick is not caught by the air inlet tube and dragged inwards. If this occurs, the whole operation from insertion onwards shall be repeated.

The oil holder must be held vertically to prevent outflow of oil into the air inlet tube which must remain free from all obstruction.

(vii) The assembled oil holder (and wick holder) shall then be kept in the oven at 100—105° Fahrenheit for twenty minutes, and thereafter inserted into the lamp, which shall be at the room temperature of 80—85° Fahrenheit and not hot from a previous burning test. If any resistance occurs due to the wick catching and bending back at the edges when it reaches the fixed guide of the lamp the wick shall be retrimmed and on no account used in a damaged condition for the standard burning test.

(viii) The lamp shall be placed in a vertical position and completely protected from draughts.

(c) *The Flame Test.*—

(i) The wick shall then be turned up by means of the adjusting screw until it can be lit.

(ii) The flame shall be adjusted every minute for the first five minutes at one to two millimetres below its smoke point so that it is kept free from smoking.

(iii) The smoke point shall be obtained by raising the wick until a smoky flame is produced, and then lowering it until the smoky point disappears, just leaving a clear luminous flame.

(iv) At the end of five minutes, adjustment to the exact smoke point shall be made and a stop-watch shall be started at the moment of final adjustment.

(v) The value shall be noted by reading the height of the point of the flame in millimetres, the eye of the observer being about nine inches from the front of the instrument and slightly to one side so that a reflected image of the flame is seen on the scale on one side of the vertical white line, the flame itself being projected against the other side of the scale.

The two readings must be the same to ensure avoidance of vertical parallax.

(vi) Without further adjustment of the flame in any way, its height shall then be read and recorded at intervals of two minutes. After the fifth such interval, that is precisely ten minutes after the moment of final adjustment, the flame height shall be read.

This final measurement in millimetres is the "flame height" which is referred to in the Interpretation of Results, Section 5.

(vii) When conditioning a wick with white kerosene, the lamp, shall be allowed each time to burn for twenty minutes, after the five minutes taken for adjustment of the flame as described above [*vide* paragraph (ii) of this section].

(d) *Cleaning of Lamp, etc.—*

At the end of the test, the oil holder (together with the wick holder) shall be removed from the lamp, drained, cleaned with petroleum ether, dried for 30 minutes at 100—105° Centigrade, and blown out with dry air.

The lamp must be replaced in the oven for not less than five minutes after air blowing to ensure absolute dryness ready for re-use.

3. *Further details regarding conditioning wick.*—The complete conditioning cycle for a new wick six inches in length shall be as follows:—

(a) Extraction with petroleum ether followed by extraction with sulphuric ether; then drying [*Vide* Section 3 (a)].

(b) Burning for twenty-five minutes using white kerosene.

(c) Re-extraction and drying.

(d) A second burning as before.

(e) Re-extraction and drying.

(f) If not used immediately, redrying for thirty minutes at 100—105° Centigrade immediately before the standard test is carried out.

(g) Cutting to five and a half inches by trimming both ends.

4. *Use of a wick for more than one test.*—A wick which has already been used for a standard test may be re-used subject to the following conditions:—

(a) When ready trimmed for re-use, the wick shall not be less than five inches in length.

(b) The wick shall have been re-cleaned and dried as follows:

After withdrawal from the wick holder the wick shall be re-extracted with petroleum ether in a Soxhlet apparatus until the extract is colourless, and then extracted with sulphuric ether until a similar result is obtained. It shall then be dried in an oven at 100—105° Centigrade for at least thirty minutes.

(c) On re-fitting for use, all charred wick from any previous burning test shall be trimmed off.

Note.—A wick shall be rejected after use with an oil which has given a value of less than 9 mm. flame height in ten minutes.

5. *Interpretation of Results.*—(i) At least three determinations shall be made by use of three different pieces of wick to obtain three consecutive readings, the extremes of which shall differ from each other by not more than one millimetre.

(ii) The results reported shall be the mean of these three consecutive readings calculated to one-tenth millimetre reporting 0.05 to 0.09 as 0.10.

(iii) When the average value obtained by the prescribed method differs by ± 0.3 millimetre from this limit, a fresh series of determinations shall be made and, if the average of these is in agreement with the previous series to 0.5 mm., the average of the two series shall be taken and reported as the flame height of the oil.

No. 67—C. No. 628-Cus.-I.|32.

Copy forwarded to—

All Collectors of Customs.

The Accountants General, Bengal, Bombay, Madras and Burma and the Audit Officer, Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction, Karachi and the Accountant General, Central Revenues.

The Commerce Department.

The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics for publication in the Indian Trade Journal.

The Secretary, Tariff Board.

The Indian Trade Commissioner, London.

The Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Neuer Jungfernstieg, No. 9, Hamburg, Germany.

The Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, Calcutta.

The American Trade Commissioner, Calcutta.

The British Trade Commissioners in India, Calcutta and Bombay.

The Director, Federation of British Industries, London.

The Principal Collector of Customs, Colombo.

The Indian Stores Department.

The Special Chemical Adviser to the Central Board of Revenue.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will Government inform the House whether in any of these examinations of diesel oil the flame height has exceeded a difference of 15 per cent. as suggested by Sir George Schuster when the Bill was under consideration ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I cannot answer that without notice.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that the desire of the Committee was to have a standard lamp by which everybody, who imported kerosene oil, could test the oil and see if it comes to the right standard, and not leave it to the mere whims of any Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I strongly demur to that suggestion whether it may have been the desire of the Committee or not : the criterion must be under the control of the customs authority.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : I do not question about that, but was it the purpose of the Government also to have a standard lamp, so that everybody could, at his own discretion, test whether the oil came to a particular standard ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai : May I know where the test is to be made ? Is it in every customs house, and will the importers be allowed to be present on the occasion of the test ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Yes, in the appropriate customs houses.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai : Are the importers or their representatives allowed to be present at the time of the test ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I do not know, but I will make enquiries.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that the lamp was shown to the Select Committee, and it was said that the test was certain and no difference would happen ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am not aware of that. I am not very good at the history of what happened before I arrived here.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to tell us from where they got this standard lamp ? If it is a standard lamp, it must be available in all scientific shops.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It is described as a standard smoke-point lamp. I assume it is a lamp which is generally applicable and not adopted by the customs authorities at their own whim,—I think is the word used.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : It is Alladin's wonderful lamp !

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If it is a standard lamp, and it has not been tempered, then the result of the test would be the same whether it is applied by the Customs Collector or any other person.

(No answer.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : In view of the fact that there exists a difference of opinion, will Government be prepared to consider the question of taking a sample of this diesel oil and examine it along with red kerosene oil and prove that it is over 15 per cent. ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir.

SERVICE RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

895. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that under paragraph 403 of Open Line Code, Volume II, of State Railways, a record of service is maintained ?

(b) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 197 to the Fundamental Rules a special form, in lieu of service book, is prescribed for permanent subordinates (non-pensionable) on State Railways ?

(c) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 199, a Head of Office is responsible for recording every stop in a Government servant's official life and for the upkeep of the service record ?

(d) Is it a fact that under Supplementary Rule 202, the head of an office should permit a Government servant to examine his service record, should he at any time desire to do so ?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state :

- (i) whether these rules are applicable to Railway (State) Administrations ; if not, why not ;
- (ii) the circumstances under which the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway, has refused permission to the staff to peruse their service records under his No. ET/10/34 R. A. S. M., dated the 28th July, 1934 ;
- (iii) the action taken against the Divisional Superintendent against non-observance of the rules ; if none, why not ; and
- (iv) the safeguards provided for the rights and privileges of the subordinate staff on Moradabad Division against the Divisional staff ; if none, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) (i). Railway staff have been specially excepted from the general provisions regarding Service Books in Supplementary Rules 197 *et seq.*

(e) (ii) to (iv). Do not arise.

STATION MASTER'S EXAMINATION IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

896. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Has the attention of Government been invited towards Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway's Memo. No. C.R., dated the 10th July 1934, reading : " The T. A. O. books are out of stock and the revised edition has not yet been received from Head Office. (Sd.) Mela Ram, for Divisional Superintendent " read with No. EXIII-P-4, dated the 12th July, 1934, reading : " Please note that the passing of Station Master's Examination does not exempt you from passing the Goods' Account Examination, Higher Standard. Please let me know when you are ready to come for above test by the Assistant Superintendent, Commercial " ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) the course open to the staff to prepare themselves for the examination without books ;
- (ii) the reason for calling them for examination in the absence of the books ; and
- (iii) whether the Station Master's examination does not qualify a man for the post ; if not, how and why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MORADABAD.

897. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendents on the East Indian Railway are not bound to obey the

orders of their superior officers ? If not, will Government please state :

- (i) the circumstances under which the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, disobeyed the direction contained in Chief Commercial Manager, Lucknow, No. C.G.45/10/24, dated the 29th April, 1925 ;
- (ii) the number and date of the order under which the said direction of the Chief Commercial Manager was acted upon ; and
- (iii) whether they are prepared to order the obedience of the said direction ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Government have no information as regards clauses (i) and (ii). As regards (iii), Government see no reason to interfere. They leave it to the Local Administration to secure compliance with its orders by subordinate officers.

PROMOTION OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

898. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Has the attention of Government been invited to paragraph 4 of circular No. E.T./10/33, A. S. ms. A., dated the 11th July, 1934, issued by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, East Indian Railway, reading : " A common seniority list is being compiled on these lines and all Assistant Station Masters ' C ' Class and Station Masters A Class, who were promoted after the revised co-ordinated scales of pay were introduced on and after 1st November, 1928, will retain their promotions but Assistant Station Masters whom they may have superseded will take seniority over them when in their turn they are promoted to Station Masters or Assistant Station Masters C " ? If so, will Government please state whether it is a fact that the scale of pay of an Assistant Station Master " C " class is Rs. 70—5—95 and that of a Station Master " A " Class is Rs. 52—4—76 ? If so, how is seniority based on initial pay in the grade, and how are two designations combined in the spirit of rule 2 of the rules for recruitment and training of staff ?

(b) What are the reasons for and Fundamental Rule under which a man, who received his promotion earlier, can be made junior to a man whose date of promotion is later ?

(c) Has not the Divisional Superintendent introduced a new code of promotion by this circular ? If so, what action do Government propose to take against the promulgation of such new codes *every day* ? If none, why not ?

(d) Do Government propose to examine or test the ability of Divisional Superintendents and their efficiency in Rules and Regulations triennially ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) to (c). I am not sure I quite understand the question, but the circumstances stated do not furnish any reasons for Government to intervene in questions of relative seniority of staff of the classes indicated which are within the Agent's powers.

(d) No. Government consider it quite unnecessary.

CASE OF ONE MR. P. BHARTHI, *ex*-GUARD, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

899. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :** With reference to my starred question No. 795, dated the 12th September, 1933, regarding P. Bharthi, *ex*-guard, East Indian Railway, will Government please state if they have completed their enquiry into the case ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand that my Honourable friend has already been informed by the Chief Commissioner of Railways and by Mr. Colvin, Member of the Railway Board, that the Railway Board have enquired into this case and consider that the East Indian Railway administration were justified in regard to the action taken by them in this case.

AMALGAMATION OF THE POSTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX, UNITED PROVINCES AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

900. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it not a fact that the post of the Commissioner of Income-tax in the Central Provinces and Berar was "abolished" and was amalgamated with the post of the Commissioner of the United Provinces ?

(b) Will Government please state whether this arrangement was brought about as a temporary and experimental measure, or as a permanent one ?

(c) Will Government please state the headquarters of the commissioner for this combined post ?

(d) Will Government please state whether this arrangement has been found satisfactory in actual working ? If not, do Government propose to revert to the old system ?

(e) In view of the long extent of jurisdiction, are Government prepared to move the headquarters to a more central place like Jubbulpore ?

(f) Are Government aware that the present arrangement is extremely inconvenient to assesses of the Central Provinces and Berar ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes.

(b) The arrangement is a permanent one.

(c) Lucknow.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) The Government of India have not received any complaint.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know what sort of enquiry the Department had before they satisfied themselves that the present arrangement was satisfactory ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It is a little difficult to know how to investigate non-existing complaints. (Laughter.)

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY OF LABORATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR USE IN THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

901. **Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Are Government aware that the University of Bombay has decided to open a course of Chemical Technology ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Bombay University wants to place a very big order of laboratory instruments for that course ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Bombay University have requested the Government of India to exempt them from the customs duty ?

(d) Will Government please state whether they propose to grant the exemption from customs duty by way of help to a course of education ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The answer is in the negative. Where assistance is to be given to such educational institutions, it should be done by direct grants-in-aid from provincial revenues, and not indirectly from Central revenues by remission of customs duty.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know whether there is any technical or legal objection to exempting such instruments from customs duties ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would ask the Honourable Member to cast his mind back to a debate which took place two days ago about the wickedness of Government assisting provincial subjects. (Laughter.)

ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OF THE POLICE IN AJMER.

902. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that on the 26th July, 1934, a public meeting was held at Ajmer to protest against the action and negligence of the police ?

(b) What is the text of the Resolution passed by that meeting ?

(c) What action, if any, did Government take on such resolutions ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The information asked for has been called for and a reply will be given to the House in due course.

CONSTRUCTION BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR HOUSES IN NEW DELHI.

903. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 29th July, 1934 (page 12), under the caption " New Delhi Landlords Plight " ?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to encourage the private individuals to build their houses in New Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). Yes.

MUSLIM TEA STALLS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

904. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that Muslim Tea Stalls at Dadar, Kurla and Igatpuri, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have been sold to non-Muslim Iranis ?

(b) Are there no Muslim Tea stalls at Murtazapur, Chanda and Balharshah ?

(c) Have the Muslim stall-holders on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway recently been forbidden to sell fruits on the platforms, while the non-Muslim stall-holders have no such restriction ?

(d) Are provision passes issued to contractors catering on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at more than one station ?

(e) Is it a fact that third class Hindu Tea stall-holder, Victoria Terminus, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, has been granted a first class free pass and two second class passes from station to station on the whole Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(f) Is it a fact that third class Hindu Tea Stall Contractor has paid Rs. 15,025 ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway states that the licenses for the tea stalls are held by Iranis who are non-Muslims, but are required, under the conditions of their license, to employ Muslim servants.

(b) There are Muslim tea stalls at Murtazapur and Balharshah, but not at Chanda.

(c) No distinction is made between Muslims and other communities in this respect. The rule which applies to all communities alike is that when separate licences are given for the sale of fruit, which may be given either to a Hindu or a Muslim, other stall-holders are not allowed to sell fruit.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Government are informed that two Hindu stalls have been let from the 1st October, 1933, for Rs. 15,025, but the passes have been given in connection with the buffet and restaurant cars contract.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Are Government aware if this is the rule that is followed by the railway authority in regard to all stations, and also on other lines ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : What rule ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : This rule of giving contract to non-Muslims for the purpose of catering to Muslims, and as the Honourable Member said, employment of Muslims by non-Muslims to serve Muslims. That is a great difficulty.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have no information about other lines; the only information I have already given to the House.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : It was said that these contracts were not to be sold. Here we have got a definite illustration, which the Honourable Member himself admits, that the contract was sold for Rs. 15,025, which is contrary to the rule of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have informed the House that a license fee of Rs. 15,025, which is contrary to the rule of the Great Indian Peninsula the stall-keepers in question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Rs. 15,025—is it a licensing fee or the sale price of the contract ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : It must be remembered that it is the Victoria Terminus Station.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Rs. 15,025 is a big licensing fee for a third class tea stall. Or is it the sale price of the contractors ? Will the fee be returned ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : It cannot be the sale price of the contractor. Nobody is going to sell or buy him. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. G. Jog : Is it a fact that these stall contractors have got to spend something extra for securing these contracts, and that it falls on the customers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am not aware of any such thing.

Mr. S. G. Jog : The Honourable Member may take it from me that there is a complaint that they have to spend some extra money.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Can my Honourable friend give me specific instances ?

Mr. S. G. Jog : I will write to the Department, and it is not fair to give them out here on the floor of the House.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I think it is more unfair to make general allegations of this kind without being able to give any specific instances in support of them. (Cheers.)

Mr. S. G. Jog : I have got specific instances with me, but I am not prepared to disclose them here in the interests of the Department--not that I have not got them.

Mr. P. R. Rau : My Honourable friend is unable to give me any specific instance. It is obvious that I cannot enquire into it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask whether the system of giving contract to one person for a large number of stations is justified or not ? I thought it was against the principle that a contract should be given, so far as possible, to local persons.

Mr. P. R. Rau : This particular instance is with reference to one or two stalls at the Victoria Terminus Station.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : No. It relates to Dadar, Kurla, and Igat-puri stations.

Mr. P. R. Rau : You are talking about (a). As regards (a), I think, so far as my information goes, the contracts are not all held by the same person.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, is to be adopted, what is to become of the contract which is given to Messrs. Kellner and Co. ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Which suggestion ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The suggestion of my Honourable friend is that different contracts should be given to local persons at different stations.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : As far as possible.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : as far as possible. If this suggestion is given effect to, what is to become of the contract which is given to Messrs. Kellner and Co., which is for a large number of stations ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know if the Government of India are prepared to accept the suggestion which has been made by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad just now ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I must have time to consider it.

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad : I said, as far as possible. In any case, local contractors to cater according to English style will not be available.

Mr. P. R. Rau : That was one of the suggestions made by my Honourable friend at the time of the debate on this question, and those suggestions have all been sent to the railway administrations for consulting the Local Advisory Committees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is the general policy that, when there is a general grievance and there are complaints all round, the Honourable Member will not enquire into them ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The general grievance, if it is to find credence, must be supported by specific instances

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : The general grievance has been expressed, and it should be easy for the Honourable Member and the Railway Board to enquire into it and find out specific instances.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

905. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** (a) Are Government aware that there are no Muslim Refreshment Rooms at important junction stations, like Mammad, Bhusawal, Nagpur, Khandwa and Jubbulpore on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities are contemplating selling the Tea Stalls to Contractors ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

SALE OF AERATED WATERS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

906. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad :** Is it a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has given the sole monopoly of selling aerated waters to Brandon and Company on trains and train timings and that the third class passengers have to pay 75 per cent. higher rate than the ordinary rate ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand, Messrs. Brandon and Company have the monopoly. The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that the charges for all classes of passengers are about 30 per cent. higher than the local rates.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : There is a definite complaint on this subject. When a train arrives at a station, the vendors at the station are not

permitted to sell to the passengers. They can only sell when the train is not at the station ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I cannot understand my Honourable friend's question. If the vendors are not permitted to sell to the passengers, then to whom are they to sell ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : This is just my point. They are not allowed to sell when the train is in the station. It is supposed to be the monopoly of this Company, and the passengers have to get it from the vendors travelling in the train at high prices. The poor men cannot afford to pay higher prices, and they go without ice. Will you look into this ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I shall inquire into that.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will you please send the other questions and the answers also to the Advisory Committee ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I shall send them to the Agent.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Together with the other supplementary questions which go counter to his suggestion.

PERCENTAGE LAID DOWN FOR PROMOTIONS FROM THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE POSTS.

907. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) What is the percentage laid down by the Lee Commission to Indianize the Indian Civil Service by way of promotions from the Provincial Civil Service ?

(b) What should be the number of posts according to the recommendation, now to be held by the members of the Provincial services, and what is the number of posts actually thrown open to the services in the various Provinces in the Judicial and Executive Branches ?

(c) Has the percentage recommended by the Commission been reached in all the Provinces and if not, do Government propose to instruct the Local Governments to submit proposals to expedite the process of Indianisation to the extent recommended by the Commission ? If not, why not ?

(d) What is the number of superior posts in each Province and what percentages of them have been thrown open as ' listed ' to the Provincial Services in each province ?

(e) Is the percentage equal in all Provinces, both as regards the Judicial and Executive Branch ? If there is a difference, why ? Are Government prepared to take steps to see that an equal percentage of posts is thrown open to the Provincial services both in the Judicial and Executive Branch and in all the Provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I lay a statement on the table, which, read with the reply given on the 3rd February, 1931, to Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad Singh's question No. 307 on the subject, will, I hope, serve the purpose of the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the progress made up to 31st December, 1933, in increasing the number of listed posts in the I. C. S.

Province.	No. of posts to be listed ultimately.				No. of posts so far listed.				No. of posts remaining to be listed.				Remarks.
	Execu- tive.	Judicial.		Total.	Execu- tive.	Judicial.		Total.	Execu- tive.	Judicial.		Total.	
		P. C. S.	Bar.			P. C. S.	Bar.			P. C. S.	Bar.		
Madras ..	10	6	5	21	7	6	5	18	*3	*3	* In these cases the Secretary of State's sanction has been received for listing an additional post during 1934. This has not been included in the figures.
Bombay ..	8	5	4	17	4	5	4	13	*4	..	..	*4
Bengal ...	9	9	4	22	9	9	4	22	..	..	..	..
United Pro- vinces.	16	8	1	25†	9	8	1	18	†7	..	..	†7
Punjab ..	10	6	2	18	10	6	2	18	..	..	..	..
Burma ..	11	5	3	19	9	5	3	17	2	2	† Owing to reduction in the cadre, these figures are to be reduced by one in each case.
Bihar and Orissa.	7	4	2	13	5	4	2	11	2	..	..	2
Central Pro- vinces.	6	4	..	10	4	4	..	8	2	..	..	2
Assam ..	5	..	..	5	3	..	..	3	*2	..	..	*2

PROTEST BY MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE FOR HIS COMPLICITY IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

908. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Have Government received any communication from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, a State prisoner, protesting emphatically against the charge made on the floor of this House, of his complicity in terrorist activities ?

(b) Can a copy of this communication be laid on the table ?

(c) Do Government propose to take up this challenge, and prove Mr. Bose's complicity in terrorist activities ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a), (b) and (c). Government received a communication of the nature suggested in the question from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and another more detailed communication from him on the same lines on August 26th. These are under examination. A copy of them cannot be laid on the table.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is the Honourable gentleman aware that there was a public meeting in the Albert Hall at Calcutta presided over by Kumar Shib Sekharieswar Ray, an *ex*-President of the Bengal Council and *ex*-Minister of the Bengal Government, demanding the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, or in the alternative, a proper trial by a competent Court of law, and a similar resolution was passed by the Calcutta Corporation ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Do Government propose to take any action on those resolutions passed in public meetings in Bengal ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Why do they not take any notice of these public meetings presided over by such responsible people who demand nothing more than a fair trial by a competent Court ? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give his reasons ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : There is no sanction behind such meetings.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : My Honourable friend is perfectly well aware that it is not the policy of Government to state openly the reasons leading to the detention of any person under Regulation III. Nor is it the policy of Government to bring up such persons for trial before a Court.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : In view of the fact that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has been released and he was detained under Regulation III and he was also considered to be connected with "internal commotion", like Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, do Government propose to consider the case of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Consider his release ?

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Yes. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a State Prisoner under the Regulation, and he was confined for "internal commotion", like Mr. Bose. Do Government propose to consider his case also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The two cases are in no way connected, but Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose will be released when the Government are satisfied that his release can be effected without danger to the security of the country from internal commotion.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : What is the answer to part (c) of the question? I want to know whether the Government of India are prepared to give Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose an opportunity to clear his character *in camera*, if possible?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik. : No, Sir. The Government have no such intention.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Have the Government of India communicated to Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose the charges that are pending against him?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : No, Sir.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : They have not replied to the communication which they have received from Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : That communication is under examination. It has not been replied to.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it not a fact that the two Judges, who went over the records of the case of Mr. Bose, asked for an explanation of the charges made against Mr. Bose. Was this procedure omitted, in case of Mr. Bose, of the records being placed before two Judges with the replies to the charges?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The information which Government held about this gentleman was placed before two Judges who held that his internment was justified in the interests of securing the country from internal commotion.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it not the general practice, when these records are placed, that some charges are also communicated to the State Prisoner and he is asked to give his own explanations so far as he can. Has it been omitted in this case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It is not the general practice. It is sometimes done.

RECRUITMENT OF ENGINEERS BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

909. ***Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney :** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board is recruiting three permanent officers for the Indian Service of Engineers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether or not it is a fact that there are, at present, a number of excess Engineer Officers on both State and Company controlled Railways?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state why they have neglected the claims of their former retrenched Engineer Officers instead of calling for new recruits?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In 1934-35 the Railway Board are recruiting three permanent officers in India for the Indian Railway Service of Engineers through the Public Service Commission.

(b) On the State-managed Railways there are excess officers of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers. Government are not aware that there are any excess Engineer officers on Company-managed Railways.

(c) Government are of opinion that, owing to the fact that no recruitment has been made to the Indian Railway Service of Engineers since April, 1932, recruitment should be resumed in 1934-35 in order to avoid unduly long gaps in direct recruitment, which would prove undesirable from an administrative point of view. They consider, however, that, in view of the existing excess of Indian Railway Service of Engineers officers, recruitment for the next few years should be restricted to half the normal annual figure of recruitment.

Officers recruited in 1934-35 will be under training for two years and will not be available to fill working posts until the end of 1936-37 and, in the meantime, it is estimated that about 15 vacancies will occur in the Indian Railway Service of Engineers during the two years 1934-35 and 1935-36. It is proposed, in filling these vacancies, to consider the claims of selected *ex-temporary* engineers, but some of the vacancies will be provided for by reductions in the cadre of the superior service and by promotion of subordinates to the Lower Gazetted Service.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : A supplementary question, Sir. Is it not the policy of the Government of India in the Railway Department to re-employ their retrenched officers as vacancies arise rather than advertise for new entrants ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The policy of re-employing the retrenched staff applies fully only to the subordinate staff. As regards superior staff, Government will consider whether some of the vacancies can be filled by *ex-temporary* engineers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if there are persons on the waiting list, and will they be given preference in the appointment or not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : There are certain *ex-temporary* engineers whose names are borne in a list maintained by the Railway Board, and their claims will be considered when making selection.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether it is not a fact that Government will be better served by experienced retrenched officers than by raw inexperienced officers who have to be brought in for training ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : That is a matter of opinion. Government will take my Honourable friend's opinion into consideration at the time of considering this case.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : But what is your opinion ? You evidently have none.

EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT IN THE PUNJAB, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER AND DELHI PROVINCES.

910. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state, with figures, how far they have been able to remove the gross communal inequality of Muslims in the amalgamated cadre of the gazetted officers of the Income-tax Department, in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces ?

(b) Is it a fact that out of the 38 gazetted posts of the Income-tax Officers and the Assistant Income-tax Officers in the above mentioned Provinces, 13 only are held by Muslims, and out of five superior administrative posts, *viz.*, Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax only one is held by a Muslim, who was appointed last year and is due to retire early next year ?

(c) Is it a fact that out of the four appointments made in the Income-tax Officer's grade in the said Provinces, only one had gone to a Muslim ?

(d) What measures have Government adopted or propose to adopt to remove the Muslim inequality in Services of the Income-tax Department in the Punjab, Delhi and North-West Frontier Provinces.

(e) Do Government propose to consider allotting at least two out of the five administrative Superior posts of the Income-tax Department for such Muslims who might have qualified themselves for the posts ?

(f) Do Government propose also to consider the fixation of the number of Income-tax Officers and Assistant Income-tax Officers' posts in the above three mentioned Provinces to be filled by Muslims according to the population basis ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 910, 911 and 913 together.

The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

PROMOTIONS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT OF THE PUNJAB, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER AND DELHI PROVINCES.

†911. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha :** (a) Is it a fact that Government have ruled, in the case of promotion from subordinate to the gazetted ranks, in the case of Income-tax Department of the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces, that persons above the age of 35 years will not be considered eligible for such appointments ?

(b) Are Government aware that some of the subordinate officials in the Department qualified themselves for promotion to the gazetted ranks, by the higher departmental standards, when they were below the age of even 30 years, on the eve of their service, and have since then no opportunity for promotion attained the age of over 35 years,—and that the above rule will now debar them from promotion ?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a great resentment and disappointment amongst such officials against this rule ?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider relaxing the said rule in the case of those Subordinate officers of the Income-tax Department who qualified themselves for higher promotion before the rule was passed ?

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT OF THE DELHI PROVINCE AND THE AMBALA DIVISION.

912. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha :** (a) Is it a fact that in the year 1933, Rai Bahadur Mangat Rai, the late Commissioner of Income-tax, Punjab, made enquiries, under the orders of Government,

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 910.

into the administration of the Income-tax Department of the Delhi Province and the Ambala Division ?

(b) Is it also a fact that as a result of that inquiry serious charges were established against certain high officers of the Department ? If so, what were the charges and against whom ?

(c) Did Government take any action against the officers concerned and with what result ? If Government have taken no action still, do they now propose to take any ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) No. There was an enquiry by the Commissioner himself and that too as regards a particular case.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. I might add that as a result of the enquiry referred to in my reply to part (a), a subordinate officer was punished by the Commissioner. The appeal lodged by that officer against the punishment awarded is, however, under consideration.

LOCATION OF THE INCOME-TAX OFFICE AT SHOLAPUR.

†913. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav :** (a) Is it a fact that the Income-tax Office at Sholapur is situated far away from the business centre of the city ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no conveyance stand in the vicinity of this office ?

(c) Is it a fact that the conveyances of the assessee have to wait outside the office for a long time ?

(d) Is it a fact that the present premises are leased for a period of three years ?

(e) What is the rent of the present premises ?

(f) Is it a fact that complaints have been made to the authorities of the department for having shifted the office to the new quarters ?

(g) Were the higher authorities consulted before the choice and agreement of the new premises were made ?

(h) How many other alternative premises were seen before deciding upon the present one ?

EMPLOYMENT OF SIKHS IN THE UPPER SUBORDINATE ENGINEERING SERVICE OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

914. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government please state whether they are aware that there is only one Sikh Engineering Supervisor in all the three branches (General, Telephone and Electrical) of the Upper Subordinate Engineering Service of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, out of the total of over 400 Engineering Supervisors, Deputy Assistant Engineers and Assistant Engineers ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any steps to bring the number of Sikhs in the Telegraph Engineering to their legitimate due ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes; but the total number of officers of the classes specified by the Honourable Member is 380 only.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 910.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Home Department Resolution, dated the 4th July, 1934, published in the Gazette of India on the subject of redress of communal inequalities in making direct appointments. Future direct recruitment to the upper subordinate service of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department will be made in accordance with the orders issued in that Resolution.

OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF SALES SECTIONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

915. *Sardar Sant Singh : (a) Is it a fact that the Pope Committee in their second report (*vide* page 32) recommended that officers who are appointed in charge of Sales Sections should possess an intimate knowledge of the religious customs of the community served by the railway, and that, the railway travelling in India is largely guided by religious observations ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the officer who is appointed on the North Western Railway possesses these qualifications ?

(c) Is it a fact that this post on the North Western Railway is on the senior scale ?

(d) Is it a fact that officers of the Lower Gazetted Service cannot be appointed to Senior Scale of the Superior Service when Junior Scale officers are available ?

(e) Is it a fact that several Indian Officers of the Superior Service with thorough knowledge of religious customs of the people served by that Railway, are available with sufficient seniority ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what special qualifications Messrs. Jordon and Jacob, both officers of the Lower Gazetted Service, possessed which led to their appointment in charge of these Sales Sections ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The Committee have emphasised the importance of the Publicity Officer or his Assistant possessing intimate knowledge of the religious customs of the communities served by his railway.

(b) and (c). I am not clear to what officer my Honourable friend is referring. There is no separate Publicity Officer on the North Western Railway.

(d) No. The rule is that ordinarily officiating posts in the senior scale are filled by junior scale officers, but if a suitable junior scale officer is not available or cannot be made available without conflicting with the interests of administration, a Lower Gazetted Service Officer may be appointed to officiate in the senior scale.

(e) and (f). Government regret that they are unable to discuss the qualifications of individual officers on the floor of this House.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE HOWRAH-DELHI-KALKA MAIL AT KALKA.

916. *Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi : (a) Is it not a fact that the East Indian Railway Up Train No. 1, known as the Howrah-Delhi-Kalka Mail, generally reaches Kalka at about 4-10 A.M. instead of 4-50 A.M., that is to say, about 40 minutes ahead of the scheduled time ?

(b) Are Government aware that this earlier and untimely arrival of the train at Kalka causes considerable inconvenience to the travelling public ?

(c) Will Government see their way to have this anomaly and inconvenience removed either by prolonging the haltage of the train at the Delhi station or by introducing some other suitable alterations in the time-table ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In order to meet temporary engineering restrictions this train is allowed 20 minutes extra for the run from Chandigarh to Kalka. If no time is lost *en route* on engineering restrictions the train can arrive at Kalka 20 minutes before the booked time of arrival.

(b) No. The staff have instructions to allow the train to remain on the platform line until the normal time for its removal or till after all passengers have alighted.

(c) It is the normal practice to allow extra time on the last run or near a terminal station to cover detentions *en route* on account of engineering restrictions, so as to ensure that trains arrive in time at a junction station to maintain connection with other trains.

DETENTION OF THE KALKA-DELHI-HOWRAH MAIL AT SUBZIMANDI STATION.

917 ***Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi :** (a) Is it not a fact that the East Indian Railway Down Train No. 2, known as the Kalka-Delhi-Howrah Mail, ordinarily arrives at Subzimandi station at 6-20 A.M., instead of 7 A.M., i.e., about 40 minutes before the scheduled time and halts there for about 40 minutes instead of one minute, as mentioned in the time-table ?

(b) Are Government aware that this long and unexpected detention at a small wayside station in the morning causes considerable inconvenience to the passengers ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the undesirability and inconvenience of this anomaly and to have it removed as early as possible either by an earlier arrival of the train at the Delhi station or by introducing some other suitable alterations in the time-table ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) In order to meet temporary engineering restrictions, this train is allowed 20 minutes extra for the run from Badli to Subzimandi, if no time is lost *en route* from Ambala on engineering restrictions, the train can arrive at Subzimandi 20 minutes before the booked time of arrival.

(b) No.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given him to part (c) of his question No. 916.

TRAIN CONDUCTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

918. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many train conductors are there on the North Western Railway ?

(b) Are they all Eurasians or of any other nationality ? If the former why ?

(c) What were they before they were engaged as conductors and what are their duties and salaries ?

(d) Can their duties not be performed by the ticket collectors on the stations and Special Ticket Examiners on the line ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that these conductors are old people kept on ? If not, what are their respective ages and when are they due for retirement ?

(f) Do Government propose to employ on this service, if it is continued, people of all nationalities ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

ISSUE OF PASSES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

919. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that the old East Indian Railway employees and those appointed after the amalgamation of the East Indian Railway and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway are entitled to second class passes on getting Rs. 116 pay, and the employees of the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway are entitled to the second class passes on Rs. 126 pay ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agent is held competent to deal with all matters concerning his Railway ?

(c) Has the Agent, East Indian Railway, delegated these powers of independence to the Chief Operating Superintendent in regard to the issue of passes and questions about seniority, etc. ?

(d) Has the Chief Operating Superintendent got power to issue a lower class duty or privilege pass to an East Indian Railway employee getting Rs. 116 pay and an Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employee getting Rs. 126 pay ?

(e) Are the duty passes issued on the consideration of pay of an employee or on the consideration of the post held by him ?

(f) Is personal pay taken into consideration for the issue of a certain class of pass ?

(g) Is it a fact that the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees used to get a servant on inter class privilege pass, and why has this privilege been withdrawn now ?

(h) Is it a fact that the old East Indian Railway employees get an attendant pass when they do not get leave ?

(i) Has the Chief Operating Superintendent or the Divisional Superintendent got powers from the Agent to amend the pass rules whenever they desire to do so ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, to the extent to which powers have been delegated to him.

(c), (d) and (i). Government have no information as to what powers the Agent has delegated to the Chief Operating Superintendent, but I do not think that any such delegation would extend to the amending of the pass rules.

(e) and (f). The pay, including personal pay, generally determines the class of pass admissible.

(g) Government have no definite information, but it is, I believe, that servants are not ordinarily allowed in the case of intermediate class privilege passes.

(h) Yes.

THIRD CLASS TICKETS FOUND MISSING AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

920. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that in 1927, 75 unused third class tickets were found missing from the tube at Delhi Junction Station ?

(b) Is it a fact that these were for Balotra Station ?

(c) Is it a fact that the cost of these tickets was recovered from the booking clerks ?

(d) Is it a fact that subsequently these tickets were found and submitted to the Ticket Checking Section of the North-Western Railway Accounts Office ?

(e) Is it a fact that the amount recovered from the respective booking clerks was never refunded to them ? If so, why ?

(f) Is it a fact that on coming to know about the find of the lost tickets some booking clerks have applied for the refund of the amount deducted from their pay ? If so, why was it not refunded ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, under No. 9866-C., dated the 21st January, 1931, refused to grant the refund claimed ? If so, why ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Seventy tickets were found more than two years after they had been reported as missing.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part no information is available as the record in the office of the Divisional Superintendent at Delhi has since been destroyed under the rules for destroying time-expired records.

(f) and (g).: The Agent, North Western Railway, states that applications for a refund were made by the booking clerks, but owing to the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi's records having been destroyed, it is not possible to say what action was taken. Endeavours are, however, now being made to obtain such further information as is necessary before a refund can be arranged.

INCREMENTS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

921. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that under Fundamental Rule 24 an increment shall be drawn as a matter of course ? If so, will Government please state whether this Fundamental Rule is applicable to the staff serving under the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway ? If not, why not ?

(b) Are the Establishment Branch of the said Superintendent aware of the Fundamental Rules ? If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government propose to examine the staff of the said Superintendent in Fundamental Rules ? If not, why not ?

(d) Are Government aware and if not will they please institute enquiries and state :

(i) the number of men who have not received their increments as a matter of course ;

(ii) the reasons under which an increment was not paid by the Divisional Accounts Officer, Moradabad, on the due date ;

- (iii) the circumstances under which increments due and claimed on the 7th February, 1931, are not paid as yet, *vide* Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad's No. 1261-E.P., dated the 8th September, 1931, and No. 1261-E.P., dated the 14th February, 1934 ;
- (iv) who is responsible for the hardship caused on the poor subordinates ; if none, why ;
- (v) what action has been taken by them to see that increments are paid in due time as a matter of course ; if none, why not ;
- (vi) whether they propose to recover the interest of the amount due to the subordinates from the salary either of the Chief Operating Superintendent or of the Divisional Superintendent ; if not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Fundamental Rule 24 prescribes that an increment shall ordinarily be drawn as a matter of course unless it is withheld. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) I have no reason to think that this is not the case.

(c) No.

(d) I am obtaining certain information and shall lay a reply on the table in due course.

REINSTATEMENT OF THE DEMOTED DRIVERS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

922 ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Is it a fact that Government informed this House on the 13th February, 1934, in reply to unstarred question No. 70 asked on the 13th September, 1932, that the demoted drivers of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have now been reinstated ? If so, will Government please state :

- (i) whether reinstatement means an employee's reversion to his former post and position ; if not, the reason therefor, and the meaning of the word "reinstatement" ;
- (ii) the difference between, reinstatement, re-appointment, re-employment, re-promoted and put back or recalled back to duty ;
- (iii) whether the demoted staff is entitled to count the duty performed in a demoted grade towards increments on reinstatement in their former grade ; if not, why not ;
- (iv) whether Fundamental Rule 26 is applicable to staff demoted ; if not, why not, and which Fundamental Rule governs these appointments ;
- (v) whether Government propose to grant the due increments to the demoted staff on their reinstatement ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 922 to 925 together.

I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

INCREMENTS OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†923 *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Is it a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, has called upon the staff to forego their arrears on account of increments ? If so, why ?

(b) How many men have given in writing that they forego their arrears of increments ? If none, how many men have been given their increments during the half year ending the 30th June, 1934, and what was the date when their last increment in pay was sanctioned ?

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†924. *Mr. S. G. Jog : With reference to their reply to starred question No. 693, dated 6th September, 1933, laid on the table of this House on the 27th March, 1934, will Government be pleased to state why the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors who drew mileage allowance and are working as Inspectors, Head Ticket Collectors, Assistant Head Ticket Collectors and Ticket Collectors, referred to in the question are still denied the *ex-gratia* consolidated allowance sanctioned to them by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, by way of compensation due to a heavy drop in their emoluments on account of the abolition of mileage allowance ?

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†925. *Mr. S. G. Jog : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Chief Operating Superintendent of the East Indian Railway has issued instructions to the Divisional Superintendents to post the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors on stationary duties (when vacancies occur) of the Ticket Checking branch ? If so, why ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Divisional authorities have accordingly issued orders to the employees concerned that they should offer their choice for the post of Assistant Head Ticket Collectors when vacancies occur and further they have been told that they will cease to draw the *ex-gratia* consolidated allowance ?

(c) If answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the Agent, East Indian Railway, and the Railway Board, were consulted by the Chief Operating Superintendent before the issue of these orders and if the action of the Chief Operating Superintendent was approved of by them ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANTS IN THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

926. *Mr. Uppi Sahab Bahadur : (a) Is it a fact that out of the five Superintendents in the Home Department, only one is a Muslim, who is temporary at present ?

(b) Is there any likelihood of his continuing to work as Superintendent ? If so, is it a fact that excluding the above Muslim Superintendent from the assistants' cadre, there are only three Muslim assistants in the Home Department out of a total strength of 23, i.e., only 13 per cent. ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 922.

(c) Are Government prepared to look into this matter and consider the appointment of Muslims as assistants, if and when vacancies arise in future, and bring the percentage of Muslims to at least 25 per cent. in that Department ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) There is no permanent Muslim Superintendent in the Home Department. One Muslim is now officiating in a leave vacancy.

(b) The Muslim officiating as Superintendent is the senior-most Assistant and will continue to work as Superintendent so long as a vacancy is available and his work remains satisfactory. There are, besides him, four Muslim Assistants out of a total strength of 23 and the percentage is thus about 17.4 and not 13.

(c) Government will strictly apply the Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, which requires that 25 per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment shall be reserved for Muslims.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : May I know if there are not four Assistants instead of three ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Five altogether.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Including the acting Superintendent ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Now there are four Assistants. Is it a fact that one Assistant is now working in the Reforms Office and that his lien on the Home Department has been suspended ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am afraid I do not know.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know how these confidential informations leak out to the public ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I wish I knew.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : In the same way as the information leaked out regarding His Highness the Aga Khan's so-called application for a certain thing.

Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : May I know whether it is not a fact that the services of one of these four Assistants have been transferred to the Reforms Office and that his lien on the Home Department has been suspended, and this man is included in the Reforms Office personnel also ? Is that a fact ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I have said that I do not know. I want notice.

Bhai Parma Nand : May I know from the Honourable Member what is the meaning of this twenty-five per cent. reservation ? Does this mean that each of the posts should be divided into three or four parts, or that one Branch as a whole is to be taken ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The meaning of the Resolution is that twenty-five per cent. of all vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment shall go to Muslims.

Bhai Parma Nand : Vacancies in old posts also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : New vacancies.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that four persons, while dividing their share in a House, attempted to divide each brick into four parts, is it not desirable, according to my friend's assertion, that each individual should be divided into four parts ? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The answer is interrogative.

INDIANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

927. ***Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Is it the intention to Indianise one-quarter of the British Other Ranks strength of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps ? If so, within what period do Government expect to effect it ?

(b) Has every fourth vacancy in the cadre of the British Non-Commissioned Officers gone to an Indian since the formation of the Indian Civil Wing ? If so, how many such vacancies occurred since 1923 and what is the present strength of the Civilian Assistant Storekeepers ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 961 asked by Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha on the 15th September, 1933.

(b) Yes. There have been 140 vacancies since the 1st April, 1928, and the present strength of Civilian Assistant Storekeepers is 35.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Is it a fact that these Assistant Storekeepers, when they were recruited or when they were confirmed in their appointments, were given a salary of Rs. 120 a month and not Rs. 150 as contracted with them when they were first engaged on probation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid I have no information on the point at the moment.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Will the Honourable Member please ascertain that fact ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Yes, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney : Thank you.

BRITISH OTHER RANKS OF THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS UNDER THE INDIAN UNATTACHED LIST.

928. ***Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur :** (a) What is the total fixed establishment of the British Other Ranks of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps under the Indian Unattached List ?

(b) What is the proportion of Non-Commissioned Officers to Warrant Officers ?

(c) Has any proportion of Assistant Storekeepers to Storekeepers been fixed so far ? If not, why not ?

(d) If the matter is under consideration, what percentage is under contemplation ? In case it is not the same as for Non-Commissioned Officers to Warrant Officers, will Government please state the reasons for this disparity ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The present total is 553.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to part (b) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 349.

(c) and (d). The position is still as stated in the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to parts (d) and (e) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 350.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEM OF PROMOTION FOR CIVILIAN STOREKEEPERS.

929. *Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Do Government propose to introduce the same system of promotion for Civilian Storekeepers as for their British confreres, i.e., Assistant Storekeepers Lower Division to Assistant Storekeeper Upper Division after three years and thereafter promotion by vacancies within a fixed establishment ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 14th April, 1934, to part (c) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 351.

MISGIVINGS EXPRESSED ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN MILITARY ASSISTANT STOREKEEPERS SCHEME.

930. *Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : Were any misgivings expressed by the Association of Storekeepers and Storemen of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps on the introduction of the Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers scheme ? If so, what reply was given to their representation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Association recently asked permission to send representatives to Simla to discuss the question. It was informed that, as the matter was already under consideration, there was no need for a deputation.

PROMOTION OF INDIAN MILITARY ASSISTANT STOREKEEPERS.

931. *Mr. Uppi Saheb Bahadur : (a) Do Government propose to stick to the original intention of giving every fourth vacancy in the cadre of British Other Ranks to a civilian ? If not, why not ?

(b) What percentage of vacancies in the British Other Ranks cadre will be thrown open to Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers ?

(c) Will Government please confirm that the promotion of certain Storemen, who have passed Trade Test has been held up ? If so, what is the cause of the suspension ? Has it got any relation to the Indian Military Assistant Storekeepers Scheme ?

(d) Are Government aware that the discontinuance of further direct recruitment to Assistant Storekeepers cadre and suspension of promotion from Storemen to Assistant Storekeepers will adversely effect the present Assistant Storekeepers in the matter of promotion and attaining the maximum pay of their grades ?

(e) How will seniority between the three wings be determined when working in the same group ?

(f) Was the hope of eventual promotion to Storekeeper's rank held out to all Storemen in the letters of appointment issued to them ? If so, how do Government reconcile the present suspension from Storeman to Storekeeper grade ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The matter is under consideration in connection with a militarization scheme, but whatever decision is arrived at will not affect the appointment of an Indian to every fourth vacancy until the authorised percentage is complete.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes. The suspension is due to the fact that the scheme to which I have just referred is under consideration.

(d) No. The prospects of the present Assistant Storekeepers will not be affected.

(e) It is not the intention that personnel of the three wings should work in the same groups when Indianization is completed.

(f) The men were informed that a certain number, if suitable and qualified, would have the eventual prospect of being selected for the appointments of Assistant Storekeeper and Storekeeper. In view of the militarization scheme mentioned above, the number of appointments open to civilians promoted from the grade of Storeman will be reduced to some extent. The promotion to the higher grades is temporarily suspended until the respective quotas of Civil and Military Assistant Storekeepers are fixed.

CONTRIBUTION BY THE INDIAN STATES TOWARDS THE EXPENDITURE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

932. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla :** Do Government propose to consider the question of asking the Indian States to make a contribution towards the expenditure of the League of Nations in view of the fact that the expenditure incurred by India in respect of the League of Nations represents not only British India but also the Indian States ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The answer is in the negative. If association in India's membership of the League of Nations were an isolated incident of association between British India and the States, it would of course be reasonable that the States should contribute towards the expenditure incurred in connection with India's membership of the League. This, however, is not the position. British India and the States are associated in innumerable ways. In some cases the circumstances of their association are such as to create a claim by British India against the States ; in other cases, the circumstances are such as to create a claim by the States against British India. The Honourable Member will, therefore, realise that there could be no justification for taking the action suggested by him otherwise than as part of a general settlement, which may be expected to take place in the event of the States entering an Indian Federation.

PROHIBITION OF THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY MR. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN THE YUGO-SLAV PRESS.

933. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is there any truth in the statement in the Press that the British Ambassador in Belgrade requested the Foreign Office to see that articles and interviews given by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose did not appear in the Yugo-Slav Press, as he was an 'undesirable' ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether it was at the instance of the Government of India.

or at the initiative of the British Government, that the Ambassador took this course ?

(c) Is it the policy of Government to suppress all criticism of the Government of India in other countries ? Do they adopt the same measures when the people of India are falsely depicted and criticised in Europe and America ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) The Government of India have no information on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

TRUNK ROAD FROM MADRAS CITY TO DELHI.

934. ***Mr. B. Rajaram Pandian :** Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any trunk road from Madras City to Delhi, running by the side of the grand trunk express railway line ? If not, when will one be available for the motorists to go straight from Madras to Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : There is no such through trunk road in existence. The construction of 150 miles of road and a large bridge over the Godavari outside British Indian territory would enable through communication to be provided. As far as the Government of India are aware, no such scheme is at present contemplated.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF THE INDIAN SHIPPING COMPANIES.

935. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the two British shipping companies on the Indian coast are carrying on a ruinous rate war at present when the British shipping is passing through an unprecedented depression and are clamouring for large subsidies from Government to tide over the present crisis ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the severe rate war is hitting hard not only the small Indian steamship companies on the coast but is also seriously dislocating the interests of trade on the coast ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to protect the interests of trade as well as the interests of shipping on the coast ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to somewhat similar questions asked by Messrs. S. G. Jog and Rahimtoola M. Chinoy bearing Nos. 739 and 743, respectively.

PRICES OF WOOL.

936. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware that the export of wool in 1933-34 was 55,888,507 pounds valued at Rs. 1,98,48,211 ?

(b) Are Government in a position to state why the average price per lb. was lower in 1933-34 than in 1932-33 or 1931-32 ?

(c) Is it a fact that wool prices have advanced in other markets in 1933-34 ?

(d) Do Government propose to refer the question of assuring the best price to the wool grower for investigation to the marketing expert and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) Yes.

(b) From the information available, it appears that the average price of raw wool per pound was not lower in Bombay in 1933-34 than in 1932-33, except in the case of wool exported to Belgium and France.

(c) Yes, so far as the London market is concerned. Information regarding the other markets is not available.

(d) The Honourable Member's question will be brought to the notice of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it the intention of the Government to regulate the internal prices of this wool—either to lower them or to raise them ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I have certainly no (present) intention of doing anything on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

ASSISTANCE TO THE SUGAR FACTORIES IN BIHAR DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE.

937. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Is it a fact that the owners of nine factories in Bihar, damaged by the earthquake, submitted separate petitions to the Government of Bihar for assistance ?

(b) Is it a fact that these petitions were accompanied by statements of losses caused by the earthquake ?

(c) Is it a fact that these owners are still waiting to hear what measure of assistance the Government of India intend to afford ?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in respect of petitions made through the Bihar and Orissa Government by the proprietors and the agents of those Bihar sugar factories which were severely damaged by the earthquake, for assistance in meeting the cost of rebuilding the demolished factories and repairing and replacing machinery, by exempting them from payment of excise duty on sugar to be produced during the cane season 1934-35 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). A reply has just issued refusing the request.

PETITIONS MADE THROUGH THE BIHAR AND ORISSA GOVERNMENT BY THE PROPRIETORS AND AGENTS OF SOME SUGAR FACTORIES IN BIHAR.

938. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware that certain factories in Bihar, whose despatches were held up owing to Railway communications being interrupted, have put up their cases through the Collector of the District and the Commissioner of the Division to the Bihar Government and requested them to submit the case to the Government of India ?

(b) Have Government received these cases ?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in respect of petitions made through the Bihar and Orissa Government by the proprietors and the agents of those Bihar sugar factories which, by reason of Railway communications being cut off for a period over a month and shortage of rolling stock, were unable to make despatches of their sugar from 15th January onwards and therefore, under the Sugar Excise Act, had to pay duty on sugar in stock which would otherwise not have been liable to excise duty ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Government of India have agreed to grant exemption in respect of stocks of sugar held on the 1st April, 1934, by North Bihar sugar factories damaged by the earthquake in excess of the stock which would have been held but for the earthquake.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do Government propose to give compensation to those factories whose sugar has been destroyed by the falling down of the buildings in which the sugar was stored in the factories ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir. The pledge given by my predecessor was an extremely limited one. It was limited to the case of factories which could not get their sugar away owing to the earthquake, and, therefore, had to pay more excise duties than they would otherwise have done.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : So the Government do not want to compensate for the loss of sugar which has been destroyed in the factories by the earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That comes under the general category of the earthquake damage, and it is not a matter for the Government of India at all.

[Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) called upon Mr. S. G. Jog to put his question No. 939.]

Mr. S. G. Jog : Can I be compelled, Sir, to put that question ? I do not want to put questions from 939 to 946 as I am anxious to reach my question No. 947.

(Mr. S. G. Jog was allowed to do so.)

†939*.—946*.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIAN REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

947. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it not a fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the establishment of an Indian Regiment of Artillery ?

(b) Will Government please state when the formation of the first brigade will be made and at what place ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the personnel of this new arm will be drawn from Punjabi Mussalmans, Rajputs, Raighars and even Madrasis ?

(d) Is there any provision in this composition of the first brigade for the Mahrattas ? If not, will Government please state the reason for the exclusion of this class only ?

† These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

(e) Are Government prepared to reconsider the position and make provision for the inclusion of Mahrattas ?

(f) Are Government aware that the *Times of India* in an article, dated November 17, 1933, had commented severely on this attitude of Government towards the Mahrattas ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) Yes.

(b) In January, 1935, at Bangalore.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The classes to be included in the first brigade were selected after careful consideration. The maximum number of classes which can be represented in a brigade is four. Mahrattas are by no means the only class excluded.

(e) I am afraid the composition cannot be altered.

(f) Government have seen the article.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know, Sir, why some classes have been included and others have been excluded ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As I have said, only four classes out of the whole of India could be included.

Mr. S. G. Jog : What I want to know is why only four classes have been included and others have been excluded ? What is the special reason for the inclusion of these four classes ? When you open a new regiment, it should be open to all. Is there any particular reason against those classes which have been excluded ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : It is the practice throughout the army to have units composed of particular classes. As I have said, some classes had to be excluded, and unfortunately the Mahrattas were one of those classes.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : May I know, Sir, what is the reason for their exclusion ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid I cannot say off-hand what led to the selection of those four particular classes.

Bhai Parma Nand : Does that mean that there is no equality between different classes of Indians ? In other words, there is racial discrimination. Only the other day, there was so much talk about the equality of British and Indians in this House, and I want to know why there is so much inequality between different classes of Indians ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : This sort of organisation has been adopted, because it is most convenient for administrative purposes.

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know, Sir, why Government have given preference to one caste over the other in the case of this particular regiment ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think that there was any question of preference seeing that this is the first brigade of its kind that has been raised.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Will Government kindly reconsider the position when fresh recruitments are made ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Certainly, Sir.

Bhai Parma Nand : Looking to the status of the different classes of Indians, is it the duty of the Government to look to their own convenience and not to the status of the people living in this country ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : A very careful watch is kept on this question of recruiting from various classes. Government always take care that one class is not over-recruited and another class is not under-recruited.

Bhai Parma Nand : But you have excluded one community altogether. There is no question of over-recruiting or under-recruiting ; you have excluded all other classes except three or four. I want that the distinction of martial and non-martial classes should be abolished altogether and equal status should be given to all the people of the country ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I do not think, Sir, that that arises out of this particular question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask, Sir, if there is really a rule observed by the Military Department as regards the martial classes ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : No, Sir. We do not in the army recognise the expression " martial classes " at all. We always refer to the " enlisted classes ".

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : Is there any such class as the " enlisted class " recognised by the Military authorities ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The enlisted classes are those classes which are at any given moment enlisted in the army.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Are the Mahrattas included in the " enlisted classes " or not ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Honourable Member must be well aware that the Mahrattas are enlisted in the army today.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav : Then why have they been excluded from this new formation ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Some classes had to be excluded.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I ask, Sir, on what ground those classes are excluded ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : That question has been asked.

VACANCIES OF APPRAISERS, EXAMINERS AND CLERKS IN THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

948. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Is it a fact that there were five vacancies of Appraisers, eight of Examiners and 20 of Clerks in the Customs Department, Bombay, in July and August, 1934 ?

(b) Is it a fact that applications were not invited for the said vacancies, but some candidates applied for the said posts and were interviewed by the Collector, Customs Department, on the 3rd August, 1934 ?

(c) Is it a fact that one Examiner was promoted to the Appraiser's post and two outsiders (one a Christian and the other a Parsi) were appointed as Appraisers ?

(d) Is it a fact that the remaining two vacancies are proposed to be filled in by promotion from among Examiners in the Department? If so, do Government propose to promote the two Muslim Examiners to the two vacant posts?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the claims of qualified Muslims for the ten vacancies of Examinership and 20 of Clerkship?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state why these vacancies were not advertised and appointments are being made secretly in spite of the announcement made by the Government of India on the 6th July 1934?

(g) Are Government prepared to see that such irregularities do not recur in any Department of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Three posts of Appraisers, six of Examining Officers and three of Lower Division clerks were sanctioned from the 1st August, 1934, and three vacancies of Lower Division clerks occurred during the period July-August, 1934. These were the only vacancies filled up during the above period.

(b) Yes, but a register of selected applicants is maintained at the Custom House and there were 114 names at the end of July on the Appraising Department register. In addition 300 applications were received from all parts of India. Out of these 30 were selected for an interview on the 3rd August, 1934.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). No vacancies remain to be filled.

(f) I would refer to my answer to part (b) above. A register of applicants is maintained for each category of the staff.

(g) Government are satisfied that there has been no irregularity and that effect has been given to their orders regarding communal representation.

CONFERENCES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MYSORE AND HYDERABAD STATES TO CONSIDER THE TUNGABHADRA PROJECT.

949. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** (a) Are Government aware that a conference is being held at Hyderabad (Deccan) of the representatives of the Government of Madras and the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to consider the Tungabhadra Project?

(b) If so, have Government of India sent their own representative?

(c) Have any of the Local Governments concerned approached the Government of India in this connection either for financial help or for any other reason?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Government have no information, other than reports which have appeared in the Press.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

ITALIAN EXPORTS TO, AND IMPORTS FROM, INDIA.

950. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Will Government please give the figures of Italian exports to India (including Kathiawar Ports) for the years 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of Italian imports from India (including Kathiawar Ports) for the same four years ?

(c) Will Government please give particulars of the more important Italian exports to India in quantities and values for the same four years ?

(d) Will Government please give particulars of the more important Italian imports from India for the same four years ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : All the information required by the Honourable Member, with the exception of the figures hereafter quoted, is available in Volume I of the Annual Statement of the Seaborne Trade of British India for the year ending 31st March, 1933, in the monthly Accounts for March, 1934, and in the Kathiawar Trade Statistics for the same month, copies of which are in Library of the House. The value of imports from, and exports to, Italy through the Kathiawar ports for the year 1930-31 is as follows :

					Rs.
Imports	..	..	..	..	11,847
Exports	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Are there not later figures available for Kathiawar than 1930-31 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : I think those are the latest authoritative figures that we have. You must remember that those statistics are from an Indian State and they are not necessarily up-to-date.

Mr. H. P. Mody : My understanding was that they were only a few months old ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : Those are the latest figures that seem to be available in my office.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO ITS INDUSTRIES AND ITS SHIPPING LINES.

951. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Are Government aware whether the Government of Italy gives any subsidies or bounties to any of its industries in any shape or form ?

(b) Are Government aware in what form the Italian shipping lines to India are assisted by the Government of Italy ?

(c) Are Government aware that Italians travelling to India are compelled to travel by an Italian line ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bore : (a) to (c). The Government of India have no official information on the subject.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Are Government aware that on the 6th December last, my friend, the Honourable Mr. Alexander Shaw, stated :

“ Foreign subsidies in themselves are not negligible since they now total over 30 millions a year. Even if you leave out guarantees on buildings and purchase which are given by foreign Governments to help foreign lines, you find that in ordinary subsidies alone France paid in 1932 £4 millions and Italy wants £5 millions and the United States nearly £17 millions.”

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not dispute the correctness of Honourable friend's information.

Mr. H. P. Mody : May I suggest that in view of the impending negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government, the information contained in part (a) of this question will be of great use in determining what arrangements can be made ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I have no doubt that all the information that is necessary to help the Government of India in their negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government will be obtained.

Mr. W. J. C. Richards : Are Government aware that, with the assistance of subsidies, imports of Italian rice into Great Britain increased from an annual average of 2,000 tons for 1930, 1931 and 1932 to 8,000 tons in 1933, thus depriving Indian agriculture of much of the benefit it was intended to derive from the Ottawa Pact ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I am not aware of any subsidy given by the Italian Government to its rice producers or exporters.

Mr. W. J. C. Richards : In the forthcoming trade negotiations with Italy, will Government have regard to this aspect of the matter which is of particular importance to Indian agriculture ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : As I have already said, all relevant questions will be borne in mind by the Government of India at the time of the negotiations.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RUG AND BLANKET INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

952. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Will Government please give the figures of the total imports of rugs and blankets in pounds and values for the four years 1930-31 to 1933-34 ?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of the Italian imports of rugs and blankets with percentages for the same four years ?

(c) Are Government aware that India can produce all the rugs and blankets which India requires, and that at the present moment 75 per cent. of India's looms which can produce rugs and blankets are idle ?

(d) Are Government aware that the rug and blanket industry was of great use to India during the Great War ?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to help the rug and blanket industry to re-establish it in the Indian home market ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement containing the information asked for.

(c) Government have no definite information.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government propose to refer the whole question of protection of the woollen industry as a whole to the Tariff Board for enquiry.

Statement showing the imports of blankets and rugs (other than floor rugs) into India and Italy's share therein.

	Quantity.			Value.		
	Total Imports.	Imports from Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.	Total Imports.	Imports from Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.
	lbs.	lbs.		Rs.	Rs.	
1930-31	3,667,415	3,336,095	91	36,50,855	33,34,353	91
1931-32	2,411,373	1,990,024	82	18,74,846	15,92,451	85
1932-33	4,177,079	3,781,665	91	33,97,222	31,40,357	92
1933-34	5,119,678	4,895,483	96	40,02,294	37,95,883	95

SMALL PROPORTION OF THE INDIAN WOOL CROP TAKEN BY ITALY.

953. ***Mr. J. Ramsay Scott :** (a) Is it a fact that Italy takes a very small proportion of the Indian wool crop ? Will Government please give the figures and percentage ?

(b) Are Government prepared to suggest that the basis of Italian woollen goods imports should bear some relation to the amount of Indian wool which Italy takes ?

(c) Are Government aware that Italian Rugs and Blankets are composed mainly of shoddy or broken up rags which are collected all over the continent ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Figures relating to the wool crop in India are not available but I lay on the table a statement showing the exports of raw wool by sea to Italy and the percentage share of that country in the total exports.

(b) Government are not prepared to commit themselves at this stage to any such suggestion.

(c) Government have no information.

Exports of Raw Wool by sea from British India.

Year.	Quantity in Lbs.		
	Total Exports.	Exports to Italy.	Percentage share of Italy.
1930-31	30,482,376	91,167	0.3
1931-32	41,265,157	14,896	0.04
1932-33	32,248,819	18,700	0.06
1933-34	55,888,507	135,873	0.2

IMPORTS OF ITALIAN WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS AND IMPOSITION OF A QUOTA ON WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS FROM JAPAN.

954. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Will Government please give the figures for the imports of Italian woollen piece goods for the last four years ?

(b) Is it a fact that the depreciation of the pound has accounted for the recent decrease ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Ottawa Preference of ten per cent. has helped Great Britain to increase her imports of woollen piece goods ?

(d) Is it a fact that Japan has increased her imports at the expense of those of Italy ?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the imposition of a quota on woollen piece-goods from Japan ?

(f) Have Government received the suggestion that this quota should be based on 50 per cent. of the imports of 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34 ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, Volume I, for the year ending the 31st March, 1933, and Monthly Accounts for March, 1934, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member must make his own deductions.

(e) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are Government aware that there is a very strong resentment in the country, in some quarters at least, about raising prices of manufactured articles by the Tariff Board inquiry, and, in view of this, will Government wait till the next Assembly has expressed its opinion ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I am not aware of any such resentment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If he is not aware, he may know it now.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I cannot take my Honourable friend's statement as proof of the fact.

EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON TO ITALY AND IMPORTS OF COTTON PIECE-GOODS AND YARNS FROM ITALY.

955. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : (a) Will Government please give the figures of imports of cotton piece goods and yarns from Italy during the last four years ?

(b) Will Government please give the figures of exports of raw cotton to Italy during the last four years ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 955 and 956 together.

The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Sea-borne Trade Accounts for the year 1932-33 and the Monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India for March, 1934, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL SILK PIECE-GOODS AND YARNS FROM ITALY.

†1956. *Mr. J. Ramsay Scott : Will Government please give the figures of imports of artificial silk piece goods and yarns from Italy during the last four years ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF ASPHALT INVITED BY THE QUETTA MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

108. Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Quetta military authorities invited tenders recently for a supply of asphalt ?

(b) Are Government aware that the authorities accepted the tender of Messrs. Bitumens, Limited, on the strength of the quality tendered ?

(c) Is it a fact that the authorities at the military headquarters were in favour of giving the contract to the Burmah-Shell, but the officer-in-charge, Brigadier Haswell, had already made his recommendation which the higher authorities found impossible to brush aside lightly ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Burmah-Shell are trying their best to have the officer removed from India and have reported him to the War Office ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

CARRYING OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA.

109. Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware of the impression that the Railway Administration in India is not carried on in accordance with the rules and regulations framed for observance, but is carried on in accordance with the pleasure of the individual officer in power ? If not, will Government state :

(a) the number of questions answered by them during the preceding five years ;

(b) the percentage of the questions answered during the preceding five years ;

(c) the subject matter of the questions along with the number of questions for each subject ; and

(d) the number of instances in which the individual officers' pleasure was overruled on a question ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative.

As regards the second part, Government are unable to collect the information required in parts (a), (b) and (c) ; it is available to the Honourable Member in the printed proceedings. I am unable to understand part (d).

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 955.

LICENCE FOR COUNTRY WINE RETAIL-SALE AND WHOLE-SALE BOTTLING IN THE PUNJAB AND DELHI.

110. Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri : (a) Do the Punjab Government grant the country wine retail-sale and bottling whole-sale license to the same person ? If not, why not ?

(b) Did the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, ever submit this proposal to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, somewhere in 1930 or 1931 to follow the same practice in Delhi and not to grant the retail-sale vend to one holding a whole-sale and bottling license ?

(c) Did the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, forward that proposal to the Excise Department for taking necessary action in the matter ?

(d) Did the Excise Department, Delhi, take any action ? If not, why not ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Delhi Government still grant the retail-sale and whole-sale and bottling licenses to the same person ?

(f) Have Government considered whether this system in Delhi is detrimental to Government, as well as to the retail-sale contractor ?

(g) Are Government aware that the whole-sale bottler possesses the advantage of having the facility to resort to adulteration as he has the supply of corks, capsules, labels, colours, at his disposal, which can render the adulteration by his retail-vender in the daily sale quantity leaving the rest intact ?

(h) Are Government aware that adulteration is difficult of detection owing to the retail vend being in the hand of whole-sale bottler ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Enquiries are being made and the information asked for by the Honourable Member will be laid on the table in due course.

BIDDING BY NEW CONTRACTORS IN THE EXCISE AUCTION IN DELHI.

111. Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri : Are Government aware that new and outside contractors do not now dare to bid in the excise auction in Delhi against those who hold whole-sale licenses ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No. Several licenses are held by contractors from outside the Delhi Province.

WHOLE-SALE AND RETAIL-SALE LICENSES OF COUNTRY SPIRIT IN DELHI.

112. Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri : (a) What are the names of those licensees who have got directly and indirectly in the names of their partners and agents both the whole-sale and retail-sale licenses of country spirit in Delhi ?

(b) Do Government propose to stop this system and follow the same, as in the Punjab, to avoid the chances of all sorts of corruptions ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) (i) Daulat Ram Narula has two retail country shops at Qarolbagh and Gol Market.

(ii) Sushil Kumar, a whole-sale merchant, has a brother named Triloki Nath who has got a country liquor shop at Shahdara.

(b) No. Local circumstances do not demand any change.

SECURING OF MORE THAN ONE RETAIL-SALE LICENSE OF COUNTRY LIQUOR IN AUCTION IN DELHI.

113. **Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri :** (a) Is it a fact that according to the Circular of the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, No. 5133-S.[R., dated the 21st December, 1926, it is always announced in Delhi that no man, either directly or indirectly in the name of his partner or agent, shall secure more than one retail-sale license of country liquor in auction ?

(b) Is it a fact that it was strictly observed in Delhi during the past years ?

(c) Is it a fact that this rule is broken by the present Inspector of Excise this year in Delhi ?

(d) What are the names of those who have got directly and indirectly more than one retail-sale license of country spirit in Delhi ?

(e) What are the names of the licensees of Gol Market and Qarolbagh country wine shop in Delhi ?

(f) Are these two shops directly in the name of the same person. If so, why ?

(g) What are the names of the licensees of the Roshanpura country liquor shop in Delhi ?

(h) Is it a fact that one of these licensees is the agent of the owner of the shop of the Gol Market and Qarolbagh ?

(i) Are the persons mentioned in part (h) of the same caste and related to each other ?

(j) What relations have they got with each other ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) No such restriction is laid down in the Punjab Financial Commissioner's circular referred to nor is Delhi Province excise under his control. The only condition laid down and observed in Delhi is that shops in neighbouring localities should not be auctioned to the same person.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Daulat Ram Narula is the only retail licensee who has two country liquor licenses, namely, Qarolbagh and Gol Market.

(e) Daulat Ram Narula.

(f) Yes, because it is not considered objectionable.

(g) Banwari Lal and Sohan Lal.

(h) No.

(i) No. Daulat Ram belongs to the Narula sub-caste of Arora, Banwari Lal is a Kallal and Sohan Lal belongs to the Vermani sub-caste of Arora. They are reported to be unrelated.

(j) They do not admit any relationship.

DEPOSIT OF FEES OF RETAIL-SALE SHOP OF COUNTRY LIQUOR AT ROSHANPURA, DELHI.

114. **Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri :** (a) How are the fees of the shop of retail-sale of country liquor at Roshanpura, Delhi, deposited in the Government Treasury ? In cash, or by cheques ?

(b) Who issues the cheques and upon what banks ?

(c) Will Government please state the numbers of the cheques, along with the dates and the amounts, issued from the 1st of April, 1933 up to 31st July, 1934 ?

(d) Is the drawer of these cheques the same person who has got the whole-sale bottling license and also two retail-sale licenses of Gol Market and Qarolbagh in his own name ?

(e) Why are so many licenses granted to this man ?

(f) Is it not against the Excise and administrative policy ?

(g) Is it a fact that some of the Excise Sub-Inspectors pointed it out to the Excise Inspector of Delhi and he concealed the fact from the higher officials ?

(h) Is it a fact that the above mentioned whole-seller and the present Excise Inspector are residents of the same place ?

(i) Are Government aware that they are of the same caste, and that they are also related to each other and old intimate friends ?

(j) Is it a fact that the car of the above whole-seller is always found at the door of the Excise Inspector ? Why does the Excise Inspector use the car of the Excise contractor ?

(k) In what way does the Excise Inspector compensate the contractor ?

(l) Is the Excise Inspector in the practice of accepting some gifts from the above mentioned Excise contractor ?

(m) Have they got some money transactions with each other ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Fees are recovered both by cash and by cheque.

(b), (c) and (d). The information is not available from the excise registers which contain only the date on which the money is credited by the licensees. There is no record as to whether the money was paid in cash or by cheque.

(e) Daulat Ram, who also holds wholesale licenses for country liquor spirit, holds country liquor licenses for the Gol Market and Qarolbagh. These shops are comparatively small ones, the license fee being only Rs. 24,000. Last year this man had the Roshanpura country shop paying license fee of Rs. 47,000.

(f) No. The policy followed is that licenses for neighbouring shops are not granted to the same licensee.

(g), (h), (i) and (j). No.

(k) Does not arise.

(l) No. The Excise Inspector has a reputation for honesty.

(m) No.

CLERICAL GRADES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

115. Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that there is only one clerical grade in the Government of India Presses at Calcutta and Simla ?

(b) Are Government aware that there were two clerical grades in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, prior to 1930 and the Government of India in consideration of the similarity of work and responsibilities of all clerks amalgamated the two grades and sanctioned one revised grade ranging from Rs. 45 to 140 in the year 1930 ?

(c) Is it a fact that there still exist two clerical grades in the Government of India Press, Delhi, ranging from Rs. 35 to 80 and Rs. 60 to 105 ?

(d) Is it a fact that in the revised scale, the two grades of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have been amalgamated and one revised grade ranging from Rs. 40 to 95 has been sanctioned for the new entrants ?

(e) Are Government aware that since the introduction of the revised grade of clerks appointed on or after the 15th July, 1931, the creation of posts in the upper scale have ceased in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, and that this has caused much dissatisfaction among the lower grade clerks as their future prospects have been blocked ?

(f) Is it a fact that clerks, Government Press, New Delhi, submitted a memorial ventilating their grievances to the Secretary, Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, praying for the amalgamation of the upper and lower scales and sanctioning one revised scale, but Government turned down the memorialists' prayers ? If so, are Government prepared to reconsider their grievances and sanction one revised grade as was sanctioned for Calcutta and Simla Presses in the year 1930 ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (d). The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member except that there are in existence two scales of pay for the clerks at the Simla Press recruited before the 16th July, 1931. The dual scales of pay at the Delhi Press also apply only to clerks recruited before that date.

(e) Clerks at the Delhi Press recruited before the 16th July, 1931, will be eligible for the higher scale of pay at that Press.

(f) As regards the first part, the memorial was received and rejected after full consideration. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT FUND FOR THE CLERKS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

116. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan :** (a) With reference to their reply to my unstarred question No. 344, dated the 14th April, 1934, will Government be pleased to state what administrative inconvenience would have been felt had the clerks of the Government of India Presses been exempted from the operation of Contributory Provident Fund Rules, which are mainly intended for certain technical specialists ?

(b) Are Government aware that the scales of pay of the clerks of the Government of India Presses in comparison with the technical specialists of the Presses for whom Government have intended the Contributory Provident Fund Rules, are low, that the clerks hardly manage to support their family, and another permanent cut in the shape of the

Contributory Provident Fund contribution has made their position from bad to worse? If so, are Government prepared to reconsider the cases of clerks and bring them to the pensionary basis, which the clerks originally held?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) There may have been no administrative convenience in admitting the clerical establishment of the Government of India Presses to the Provident Fund instead of giving them pensions. That, however, was not the point of my reply to the question to which the Honourable Member refers. It was decided in 1920 to give all employees of the Government of India Presses, except day-extra men, the benefits of a Provident Fund. This decision was implemented later on by admitting them to the Contributory Provident Fund (India). It was administratively convenient to do this rather than to create a separate Provident Fund for Press employees.

(b) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative. The fact that contributions have to be made to the Provident Fund has been taken into account in fixing the pay of the clerks in the presses.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS FOR THE LAHORE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

117. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore :** (a) Is it a fact that an examination for recruitment of lower division clerks for the Lahore General Post Office was recently held in the Punjab Postal Circle Office, Lahore? If so, what classes of candidates were allowed to sit at that examination?

(b) Is it a fact that the brother-in-law of the Assistant Manager, Postal Stock Depot, Lahore, was permitted to sit at this examination in preference to sons of the deceased and living employees of the Department?

(c) If the candidate referred to in part (b) above does not come under any of the classes of candidates allowed to appear at that examination, will Government kindly state why special favour was shown to this candidate and the order of precedence laid down by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, was deviated from?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government have no information. The matter is one with which the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent, is competent to deal.

CONVERSION OF THE POST OF THE POSTMASTER, SIMLA, INTO A SEASON APPOINTMENT.

118. **Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore :** Is it a fact that on account of the move of the Government of India to Delhi for the winter season, the population of Simla is considerably reduced, and as a consequence the work in the Simla Post Office is greatly decreased, necessitating the move of a large number of postal clerks to Delhi? If so, will Government please state the reason for the retention of a gazetted Postmaster at Simla during the winter season, especially in these days of financial stringency?

If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of converting this appointment into a season appointment ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : As regards the first part of the question the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct.

As regards the second part, Government are satisfied that after making full allowance for the decrease in postal work in Simla during the winter months which is met by a considerable reduction in the staff, the work and responsibilities of the Postmaster and the strength of the staff which remains under his control still amply justify the retention of a gazetted post. The last part of the question does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF BAUDOT SUPERVISORS.

119. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that under paragraph 323 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, the passing of the Baudot Supervisors' examination (paragraph 324 *ibid*), is an indispensable qualification for appointment as Baudot Supervisors ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the course of training known as the " Higher Baudot Technique ", which was subsequently introduced, was solely intended for the passed Baudot Supervisors (paragraph 326 *ibid*) and it was only when such passed men were not available that ordinary Baudot operators had to be trained under paragraph 327 *ibid* ?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether under the rules men who have attained both the qualifications (paragraphs 324 and 326 *ibid*) commonly known as " A " class, should not be considered better posted, so far as Baudot Supervisors' appointments are concerned, than those who have attained only one qualification (under paragraph 327 *ibid*) and are known as " B " class ?

(d). Will Government please state how many " A " class men are available and how many men are required for the Higher Baudot Technique class ?

(e) Is it also a fact that both the Baudot Supervisors' examination and training in Higher Baudot Technique have been postponed for the last two or three years, that it is now proposed to reopen the Higher Baudot Technique class, and that the Baudot Supervisors' examination is still postponed indefinitely ?

(f) If the reply to part (e) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of postponing the Higher Baudot Technique class pending the re-opening of Baudot Supervisors' examination ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The fact is substantially as stated by the Honourable Member but under certain conditions Baudot operators who have not passed the Baudot Supervisors examination may be sent for training in Baudot technique and on successful completion of the course may be considered qualified to hold Baudot Supervisors appointments.

(b) The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(c) According to existing orders men with the double qualifications are given preference in filling Baudot Supervisors posts.

(d) As regards the first part of the question the number is 129. The last part of the question is not clear. There is no permanent vacancy of Baudot Supervisor at present, but it is intended to continue the Higher Baudot technique training in small batches to provide for any future requirements pending such time as a decision is arrived at on the question of the future method of selection for supervisory posts in the signalling establishment, which is under consideration.

(e) As regards the first part, the Baudot Supervisors examination and the Higher Baudot technique training class were last held in June, 1931, and January, 1933, respectively. The reply to the remainder is in the affirmative.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the last part the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to the last part of part (d) of his question.

RETRENCHMENT OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

120. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued an order for retrenching the Telephone Operators in class I? If so, (i) why and (ii) in which Circles and (iii) what is their number in each Circle?

(b) Is it a fact that the said order was subsequently cancelled? If not, do Government propose to do so and defer its effect till vacancies occur by retirement or death, etc., as done in other Branches?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes. Orders were issued to the effect that the holders of surplus posts of Telephone Operators, Class I, may be retired with retrenchment concessions. The orders were issued as a retrenchment measure and applied to all circles. Government have no up-to-date information as to the number of officials retrenched in each circle.

(b) As regards the first part of the question, it is not a fact that the orders were cancelled, but, subsequently, supplementary orders were issued directing that the replacement of Class I posts by Class II posts should, in certain circumstances, be effected as vacancies occur. Government do not propose to cancel the orders or to defer their effect as suggested by the Honourable Member. It is not a fact that a different practice is followed in other branches of the Department.

LOSS IN RUNNING THE TELEPHONE BRANCH OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

121. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Telephone Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is running at a loss? If so, what was the amount of loss during 1931-32, 1932-33 and that expected during the current year?

(b) If it was not running at a loss, what was the amount of net profit during the periods mentioned in part (a)?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The following statement gives the information required by the Honourable Member :

Rs. 1,17,916 during 1931-32.

Rs. 2,28,091 during 1932-33.

Rs. 16,22,000 estimated during 1934-35.

EXTENSION OF THE TRUNK TELEPHONE LINES.

122. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that telephone communication is growing popular gradually ?

(b) Is it a fact that telephone lines are extended every year ? If so, what was the extension in 1931-32, 1932-33, and 1933-34 ?

(c) Will Government please state if there was any extension of trunk telephone lines in 1933 and 1934 ? If so, where ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The number of connections to Government Telephone Exchanges in the years 1930-31 to 1933-34 were as follows :

1930-31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,900
1931-32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,300
1932-33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,000
1933-34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24,000

(c) Yes. The trunk telephone system was extended as follows during 1933 and 1934 :

During 1933.

1. Delhi to Bombay (Carrier system)
2. Delhi to Calcutta (Carrier system)
3. Bombay to Poona and Dhond (Radio link).
4. Mhow to Bhusaval
5. Lucknow to Fyzabad
6. Delhi to Hapur
7. Simla to Chail
8. Lahore to Lyallpur
9. Asansol to Ranchi
10. Hazaribagh to Ranchi

During 1934.

1. Nagpur to Jabulpore
2. Indore to Mhow
3. Madras to Trichinopoly.
4. Trichinopoly to Coimbatore and Ootacamund.
5. Trichinopoly to Madras
6. Agra to Aligarh.
7. Jhansi to Bhusaval
8. Trichinopoly to Cochin.
9. Bezwada to Coconada and Vizagapatam.

PAY AND CLASSES OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

123. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that there are two classes of Telephone Operators in the Posts and Telegraphs Department ? If so, what is the difference in their duties ?

(b) Will Government please state the scales of pay of each and the basis on which their number is regulated and rule under which this is done ?

(c) Will Government state the number of Telephone Operators in different classes employed in each Circle of the Department separately ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Yes. Telephone Operators, Class I, are ordinarily employed for the more important duties in connection with the operation of trunk exchanges and Class II operators on purely operative duties.

(b) The scales of pay vary according to locality. In the case of telephone operators, Class I, the scales vary from Rs. 35—135 to Rs. 70—170, while for telephone operators, Class II, the scales vary between Rs. 35—75 and Rs. 70—110. The number of the two classes of operators is regulated from time to time on the basis of requirements as stated in the reply to part (a). There is no definite rule regulating the numbers.

(c) Information has been called for, and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

COMMITTEE TO RE-ORGANISE THE ENGINEERING BRANCH OF THE TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

124. **Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Engineering Supervisors employed in the Telegraphs upto 31st July, 1934 ?

(b) Will Government please state the basis on which the number of employees in this service is regulated ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to re-organise the Engineering Branch (Superior and Subordinate) on an economic basis ? If not, do Government consider it advisable to appoint an expert Committee for the purpose ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to Engineering Supervisors, General, Telephones and Electrical. If so, the number employed on the 31st July, 1934, was 291.

(b) The number of Engineering Supervisors of different classes (General, Telephones and Electrical) is fixed according to divisional requirements.

(c) No. Government do not contemplate the appointment of an expert committee at present.

DEFICIT INCURRED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KAMARAN QUARANTINE STATION.

125. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** (a) Will Government please state whether British and Indian Governments have made any advances to meet deficits which were incurred in the administration of the Kamaran Quarantine Station upto 31st March, 1922 ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) separately the amounts advanced by the British and Indian Governments, (ii) the date from which the deficits were incurred, and (iii) particulars thereof ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have created a Reserve Fund for repayment of the advances referred to in part (a), and to meet future contingencies and five per cent. of the amount collected annually from pilgrims for Kamaran ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state, separately for each year, the sums credited to this fund ?

(e) Will Government please state what improvements and alterations, involving Capital expenditure, have been carried out at the Kamaran Quarantine Station since they took charge of it, giving separate details of the improvements and alterations involving Capital expenditure and otherwise carried out in each year, with costs thereof ?

(f) Will Government please state at whose expense the civil administration of the Island of Kamaran is carried on and whether any sum is taken from the Kamaran dues paid by pilgrims ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). An advance of Rs. 5,95,600 was made to meet deficits incurred in the administration of the Kamaran Quarantine Station prior to the 31st March, 1922. One-half of this amount was advanced by the British Government and the other half by the Indian Government.

(c) and (d). The amounts paid into the Kamaran Quarantine Station Fund and the expenditure incurred from it annually, since its creation in 1927, are shown in the Balance Sheet of the Fund, as it stood on the 31st December, 1933. A copy of the Balance Sheet has been placed in the Library of the House. The whole of the advance made by the British and Indian Governments has already been repaid.

(e) The improvements carried out include the provision of *pucca* shelters in the pilgrim camps, additions and alterations to the General and Infectious Diseases Hospitals and Laboratory, provision of an electric installation, construction of a wireless station, provision of a post and telegraph office, improvement of sanitary arrangements, building of quarters for officers and staff. It is regretted that particulars of expenditure are not readily available.

(f) The cost of the civil administration of the Island of Kamaran is met partly from local receipts other than pilgrim fees and partly from an annual subsidy of Rs. 10,000 paid from the revenues of the Quarantine Station.

HIGH COURT JUDGES IN INDIA.

126. **Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** Will Government please state the number of (a) permanent, (b) additional, and (c) temporary, Judges of High Courts in India ? How many of them are Muslims under each category ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : As regards the first part, I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table on the 19th July last in reply to starred question No. 107 by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad. As regards the second part, I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing the number of Muslim Judges in the various High Courts.

						Permanent.	Additional or Acting.
Madras .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bombay .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Calcutta .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Allahabad .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Lahore .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Patna .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Rangoon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE MILITARY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.

127. **Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** : Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the circulars the present Military Accountant General has issued, warning officers and subordinates of disciplinary action of failure of audit, etc. ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The circulars in question are concerned with matters of purely departmental interest. One of them is marked confidential and the others are also of a confidential nature. In view of this, and as no public interest would be served by publishing them, Government regret they are not prepared to comply with this request.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 373 asked by Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore on the 6th March, 1934.

FIXATION OF THE PAY OF TELEGRAPHISTS.

(a) The fact is not as stated. The Fundamental Rules came into force with effect from the 1st January, 1932, but rule 22 of those rules relating to the fixation of pay of Government servants on transfer from one time-scale to another was made applicable in the case of non-gazetted officials of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department with effect from the 1st June, 1927, by specific orders of the Government of India. The pay of the Posts and Telegraphs non-gazetted officials transferred from one scale of pay to another between 1st January, 1922, and the 31st May, 1927, was regulated in accordance with the orders of the Government of India in force during that period.

(b) That fact is that in 1929 a representation was received by the Director-General from a Telegraph Service Union in connection with the fixation of the pay of postal signallers transferred as station service telegraphists and one individual case was cited. The officials concerned also submitted a petition to the Director-General in 1929 for a re-fixation of his pay from April, 1923, when he was transferred as station service telegraphist, but his prayer was rejected as being too belated for consideration. As a result of the representation of the Union already referred to special instructions were issued by the Director-General to Heads of Circles in November, 1929, to regulate the pay in such cases under Fundamental Rule 22. But as stated in the reply to part (a) above, Fundamental Rule 22 became operative from the 1st June, 1927, and not from the 1st January, 1922. The question of re-fixation of pay under Fundamental Rule 22 in the case of non-gazetted officials transferred from one scale to another between the 1st January, 1922, and the 31st May, 1927, did not therefore arise.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 599 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 3rd April, 1934.

AGREEMENT FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY MATERIALS BETWEEN DIFFERENT INDIAN PORTS.

(a) Since the year 1887, there have been various agreements with the British India Steam Navigation Company for the carriage of military and marine passengers, stores, etc.

(b) The agreement dated the 14th February, 1906, referred to by the Honourable Member, is still in force though some modifications have been made in it. Government regret that they are unable to disclose the terms of this agreement.

(c) A contract for the transport of coal for the Burma Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon during 1934-35 has also been entered into by the Railway Board with

this Company. No regular long term agreement has been executed, but copies of the relevant documents are placed on the table.

Conditions for Tenders for the transport of coal for State-managed Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon during 1934-35.

1. The quantity of cargo placed on board each steamer at Calcutta is to be decided by two Surveyors—one appointed by the Shippers and the other by the Shipping Company and should the Surveyors disagree the decision of an Umpire appointed by them to be considered final. The fee of the Umpire is to be paid by the party against whom his decision is given.

2. No range of loading dates will be accepted. The Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, will declare about the 15th of each month his programme for the following month stating the number of steamers required and the actual dates on which they are to be ready to commence loading.

Failure on the part of tenderers to supply steamers on the dates named will render them liable to a penalty of Rs. 1,000 per running day for every day late.

3. Lay days for steamer loading in Kidderpore Docks and discharging at Rangoon combined to be on the basis of 21 weather working days—Sundays and Holidays excepted—for a 7,500 tons steamer subject to proviso regarding discharge contained in Clause 7. Delivery to be commenced and taken at the Port of discharge after the steamer is ready in every respect to discharge and after the usual twentyfour hours' notice has been given.

Lay days to be counted from the day the steamer has been actually berthed and is ready for loading coal after the usual twentyfour hours' notice of readiness has been given.

4. Shipping Companies are expected to load steamers up to their full carrying capacity and will not be allowed to carry coal or other cargo for other consignees. Delivery to be given in Rangoon in shipments of not less than 7,000 tons.

5. The contract shall not be assigned or sub-let by the Contractor without the written permission of the Railway Board and in the event of the Contractor assigning or sub-letting the contract or any part thereof without such permission the Railway Board may by notice in writing to the Contractor terminate the contract.

6. The Shipping Company shall at their own cost provide all necessary baskets and shovels for the discharge of the said coal at Rangoon.

7. The Railway at the port of discharge shall supply trucks or wagons or lighters to receive the coal ex-ship, but shall not be bound to accept delivery at the rate of more than 1,000 tons per working day and from only one steamer at a time.

8. In order to provide a guarantee for the Government for the due fulfilment of the Contract the freight on one cargo shall be deducted and retained from the Contractors first bill. This amount will be refunded when the full quantity contracted for has been transported.

9. The quantity of coal to be transported shall be "more or less", i.e., the Railway Board shall have the option of requiring transportation 10 per cent. in excess of or 10 per cent. less than the contracted quantity within the period of the contract, such option to be declared before the expiration of the first seven months of the period of the contract.

10. The Shipping Company will be required to enter into an agreement for the transportation of this quantity.

COPY OF LETTER No. 4634, DATED THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 1934, FROM THE CHIEF MINING ENGINEER, RAILWAY BOARD, TO MESSRS. MACKINNON MACKENZIE AND COMPANY, CALCUTTA.

Tender for transport of coal for the State-managed Railways from Calcutta to Rangoon.

With reference to your tender No. Coal|12|262, dated the 19th December, 1933, I have to inform you that the Railway Board have accepted your tender for the transport of Burma Railway's coal approximately 180,000 tons in bulk from Calcutta to Rangoon during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935, at Rs. 3-14-0 per ton.

I shall be glad if you will please send me the usual Shipping Order in quadruplicate.

No. 19.

Calcutta, 26th February, 1934.

To

The Commanding Officer of a British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamer or other Steamer.

Received on Board from the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, Calcutta, A/c Burma Railways—Rangoon.

the undermentioned coal for.....

Full requirements of sea-borne coal in bulk, estimated at 180,000 tons 1st April, 1934, to 31st March, 1935, Calcutta to Rangoon to be shipped as mutually arranged at Kidderpore Docks.

Full freight at the rate of Rs. 3-14-0 per ton to be paid in Calcutta after completion of loading. The quantity of cargo placed on board each steamer at Calcutta to be decided by two Surveyors one appointed by the Shippers and the other by Master or Agents of the steamer; and should the Surveyors disagree the decision of an Umpire appointed by them to be considered final. The fees for the Umpire to be paid by the party against whom his decision is given.

Conditions as per tender.

Steamer is not accountable for weight or condition.

To be shipped as above.....

Freight Rs. 3-14-0 per ton of 20 cwt.s..... payable here by shipper. Bills of Lading must state contents and must be presented at this office within four days of the Steamer's clearance failing which any penalty levied by Customs in consequence of the non-entry in Export Manifest of the Goods, will be levied from shipper before signing Bills of Lading as also penalty which may be incurred through erroneous description in Bill of Lading. No Bill of Lading signed for less than Rs. 5.

This Shipping Order is issued subject to the clauses appearing in British India Steam Navigation Company's Bill of Lading to be signed for coal.

(Sd.) Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co.,
Managing Agents.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 58 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 17th July, 1934.

MURDER OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN AMERICA.

(a) and (b). It has been ascertained from His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington that official investigation subsequent to the jury's verdict, to which the Honourable Member refers, disclosed conclusively that on the 12th June, 1933, Sher Singh after murdering his Mexican concubine shot and killed himself in Imperial County, California.

(c) and (d). Hira Singh and Amar Singh were murdered on the 27th September, 1933, also in Imperial County. No information is available regarding the total number of Indian nationals murdered in America.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 194 asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin on the 23rd July, 1934.

HILL ALLOWANCE TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS POSTED AT HARDWAR.

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (e). Some 50 travelling ticket examiners were utilised in connection with Adh Kumbh Mela at Hardwar and other stations. Those who were stationed at Hardwar were deputed to perform the following duties, except one who was utilised as Night-in-Charge ticket collector :

(1) Canvassing passengers.

(2) Checking of tickets.

(3) Conducting of passengers.

Very few travelling ticket examiners were utilised to work as Ticket Collectors at stations other than Hardwar.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to questions No. 964 asked by Mr. B. N. Misra on the 28th March, 1933, and No. 135 (a) and (d) asked by Mr. M. Maawood Ahmed on the 16th February, 1934.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 348 asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 6th August, 1934.

TRANSFER OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE SORTERS FROM ALLAHABAD TO JUBBULPORE AND GAYA.

(a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that some of the employees made representations against the change.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, it is a fact that some of the employees referred to are residents of the United Provinces. As regards the second part, I would point out that liability to transfer is one of the conditions of service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the officials will get the allowances to which they are entitled on transfer under the rules. No other allowance is admissible.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (c) and (d) above.

(g) The transfers were made for administrative reasons and cannot be cancelled merely to suit the private convenience of some officials.

(h) No reduction has been made in the pay of the officials transferred, but it is a fact that the maximum of the time-scale for which they will be eligible at Gaya and Jubbulpore is less than the maximum of the time-scale at Allahabad. The officials will be brought on to the scales of pay sanctioned for Gaya and Jubbulpore strictly in accordance with the provisions of Fundamental Rule 22.

Information promised in reply to the unstarred question No. 40 asked by Mr. B. V. Jadhav on the 6th August, 1934.

INCREASE IN THE IMPORT DUTY ON PROJECTORS, AMPLIFIERS AND LOUD SPEAKERS, ETC.

Up till March, 1934, bioscope sound producing projectors were being assessed at all ports, except Bombay, under item 89/187 of the Indian Customs Tariff, the rates of duty applicable being the standard rate of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* and preferential rate of 20 per cent. At Bombay, they were being assessed at 10 per cent. under item 96/59A(2) of the Indian Customs Tariff. As the Collector of Customs, Bombay, heard that his basis of assessment differed from Calcutta, he consulted the Collectors of Customs at the other ports and as a result decided to change his practice in April. This change of practice at Bombay was reported to the Central Board of Revenue who approved the change.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 189 asked by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra on the 7th August, 1934.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNQUALIFIED MEN IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

Part (a).—Statement showing the number of permanent and quasi-permanent vacancies in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached offices shown in the Audit Registers and the pay bills for the month of June, 1934.

Total number of vacancies in—			Number of vacancies filled temporarily or in an officiating capacity in—		
First Division.	Second Division.	Third Division.	First Division.	Second Division.	Third Division.
11	6	24	10	6	21

Statement showing permanent deputation and temporary vacancies in the Railway Department, office of the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Home Department, Foreign and Political Department, Finance Department, Industries and Labour Department and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department, held by unqualified candidates.

Name of Deptt. or office.	Nature of vacancy.	Number of vacancies held by unqualified candidates.	Date from which existing.	Date from which held by unqualified candidates.	
				Retrenched staff of the Railway Board.	Other temporary staff.
Railways ..	Permanent	2	(1) 5-6-34 (2) 21-7-34	(1) 5-7-34 (2) 21-7-34	..
	Deputation	5	(1) 16-1-34 (2) 9-11-29 (3) 8-5-33 (4) 20-7-34 (5) 4-7-34	(1) 16-1-34 (2) 9-11-29 (3) 8-5-33 to 7-8-33 (4) 20-7-34 (5) 4-7-34	(2) November 1929 to January 1930. ..
Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.	Temporary	4	(1) 21-6-34 (2) 3-7-34 (3) 3-7-34 (4) 6-7-34	(1) 21-6-34	(1) .. (2) 5-7-34 (3) 3-7-34 (4) 6-7-34
	Permanent	1	(4) 11-6-34	..	9-7-34* to date.
	Deputation	9	(1) 26-3-30	..	(1) 1-10-32 to date.
			(2) 9-6-32	..	(2) 25-10-32 to date.
			(3) 22-8-32	..	(3) 22-4-33 to date.
			(4) 23-11-33	..	(4) 1-12-33 to date.
			(5) 7-3-34	..	(5) 4-5-34 to date.
			(6) 31-5-34	..	(6) 28-6-34 to date.
			(7) 3-4-34	..	(7) 4-4-34 to date.
			(8) 1-9-31	..	(8) 9-12-32 to date.
			(9) 1-6-34	..	(9) 17-7-34 to date.
Home ..	Temporary	4	(1) 1-7-34 (2) 1-7-34 (3) 1-7-34 (4) 11-8-34	.. .. .. ..	(1) 1-7-34 (2) 1-7-34 (3) 1-7-34 (4) 11-8-34
	Deputation	7	(1) 1-3-33	..	(1) 1-3-33
			(2) 1-5-33	..	(2) 1-5-33
			(3) 1-5-33	..	(3) 1-5-33
			(4) 27-5-33	..	(4) 27-5-33
			(5) 1-6-34	..	(5) 1-6-34
			(6) 30-7-34	..	(6) 30-7-34
			(7) 7-8-34	..	(7) 7-8-34

*A qualified candidate has been nominated by the P. S. C. and is expected to join shortly.

Name of Deptt. or office.	Nature of vacancy.	Number of vacancies held by unqualified candidates.	Date from which existing.	Date from which held by unqualified candidates.	
				Retrenched staff of the Railway Board.	Other temporary staff.
Foreign and Political.	Permanent	5	(1) 18-4-34	..	(1) 18-4-31
			(2) 1-3-32	..	(2) 1-3-32
			(3) 8-3-32	..	(3) 8-3-32
			(4) 8-3-32	..	(4) 8-3-32
			(5) 5-4-32	..	(5) 5-4-32
	Deputation	6	(1) 4-1-32	..	(1) 4-1-32
			(2) 9-4-33	..	(2) 9-4-33
			(3) 15-11-30	..	(3) 15-11-30
			(4) 25-4-34	..	(4) 26-4-34
			(5) 13-6-34	..	(5) 13-6-34
			(6) 16-11-33	..	(6) 16-11-33
	Temporary	7	(1) 13-6-33	..	(1) 13-6-33
			(2) 21-5-34	..	(2) 21-5-34
			(3) 21-9-33	..	(3) 21-9-33
			(4) 1-4-33	..	(4) 1-4-33
			(5) 1-4-33	..	(5) 1-4-33
			(6) 13-6-33	..	(6) 13-6-33
			(7) 13-6-33	..	(7) 13-6-33
Finance ..	Temporary	3	(1) 1-4-34	..	(1) 1-4-34
			(2) 8-6-34	..	(2) 8-6-34
			(3) 8-6-34	..	(3) 8-6-34
Industries and Labour.	Temporary	3	(1) 25-11-32	..	(1) 1-7-33
			(2) 9-1-33	..	(2) 3-6-33
			(3) 1-8-34	..	(3) 1-8-34
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.	Temporary	1	7-11-33	..	7-11-33

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 497 asked by Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar on the 9th August, 1934.

EUROPEANS AND INDIANS SERVING IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

As regards the office of the High Commissioner for India, the number of officers serving in that office who are in receipt of over Rs. 300 per mensem is Europeans 280 and Indians 41.

Information promised in reply to the starred question No. 531 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 13th August, 1934.

MAIL BAG DESTINED FOR CALCUTTA MISSED BETWEEN SIMLA AND KALKA.

(a) A parcel bag for Calcutta was lost between Simla and Kalka on 7th June, 1934. The mail contractor's agent was in charge of the mails and he admits that the parcel bag in question, which was tied on the luggage carrier of the mail car, dropped accidentally somewhere between Simla and Kalka.

(b) The Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, 'D' Division, travelled in the same car from Simla to Kalka, but he was not in charge of the mails, and as such he was not called upon to give any explanation for the loss.

(c) The loss was first noticed at Kalka when the mails were being delivered by the contractor's agent to the Mail Agent, Kalka.

(d) Yes, with the Kalka Railway Police.

(e) Both Departmental and Police enquiries were set on foot at once. The Government Railway Police have failed to trace the missing bag or the culprit; but the Patiala and Bhagat States' Police are still making enquiries.

(f) The Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab, was asked to investigate the case, but they could not take up the inquiry as the loss apparently did not occur in British Territory.

(g) Everything possible is being done.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 678 asked by Mr. S. G. Jog on the 20th August, 1934.

REGULATION RELATING TO THE TRAINING RESERVE OF THE INDIAN WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

(a) No.

(b) There are no members of the Training Reserve of non-Asiatic domicile.

(c) Since the formation of the Training Reserve in 1924, 32 members have been admitted to it, eleven of whom were deputed for post-graduate study abroad.

Information promised in reply to part (d) of starred question No. 517 asked by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 22nd August, 1934.

TRANSFER OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

(d) The remissions were granted owing to the exceptional damage caused to the crops by an almost unprecedented monsoon. An aeroplane reconnaissance over the whole flooded area and not particularly over this locality was carried out by the Assistant Superintendent of Police.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume consideration of the following motion :

"That the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1931-32 and 1932-33, Parts I and II, be taken into consideration, and that the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway."

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has moved for consideration of the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1931-32 and 1932-33 and with it, he has further added that an expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32, for additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on the installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway, be approved. The latter portion is merely, more or less, a formal motion for granting surplus grants for what the Public Accounts Committee styled as "new services" and for which a formal vote of the House is required. So.

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

need not say anything about the latter portion, because I know the House should accept that part of the motion without any discussion.

As regards the first portion of the report, it will be evident to Honourable Members that the Public Accounts Committee dealt with the reports of accounts that were closed 18 months before. So generally the work of the Public Accounts Committee is considered as a *post mortem* examination. But, unfortunately, for the last two years, we find that even in this *post mortem* examination we have had to deal with the accounts of a year still older. For example, this year we are dealing with the accounts also of 1931-32, and, last year, we similarly dealt with the accounts even a year older than the usual 18 months. I hope the new Finance Member will see to an improvement of the position as regards discussion in this House, and, in future, there will be no necessity of dealing with the discussion of the Public Accounts Committee report for a period earlier than is absolutely necessary, that is, I mean the accounts that were closed 18 months before and not still earlier. I shall now first deal with the second part of the accounts that deal with railways, because though I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee I had no opportunity to go through the railway appropriation accounts this year. I should like to draw the attention of the Financial Commissioner to the remarks that we passed on page 5 of the report for 1931-32 and I shall be glad to hear how far these matters have advanced. The Financial Commissioner explained that the Railway Department were endeavouring to come to some agreement with the Army Department and to get a memorandum circulated to the members of the committee as soon as possible. I am afraid, these accounts are lying for settlement for a number of years; and, year after year, the Public Accounts Committee was drawing the attention of the Railway Authorities to come to some settlement with the Army Department. I hope that the Financial Commissioner will be in a position to tell us how far this had advanced by this time. I shall also be glad to hear about the settlement that they have come to, as regards the apportionment of joint station expenses. That was also a matter pending for a long time. Another item is about the allocation of expenditure to capital, depreciation fund and revenue. I find that the matter is still under discussion because it is also reported in the next year's Public Accounts Committee report. I should like to hear from the Railway Authority what decisions they have come to, as regards this allocation to depreciation fund and to capital. As regards this allocation, I find, that even in the earlier report that the Auditor General explained that the problems involved were exceedingly difficult, and what Sir Ernest Burdon feared was that if they were postponed further, the decision might have to be taken hurriedly in connection with the drafting of the Bill relating to the Statutory Railway Board. He, therefore, suggested that the matter should be expedited. So the importance of expediting the matter in 1931-32 was very keenly felt and I shall be glad to hear from the Financial Commissioner the results they have arrived at. Before dealing with the report for the current year on Railways I should like to understand one position. It seems to me very anomalous that the Controller of Railway Accounts is usually promoted to the position of the Director of Railway Audit and when the officiating period is over he reverts to his former position. What happens, as it perhaps happened this year, is, the same gentleman who is passing the accounts as Controller

of Railway Accounts had to report on his own work as the Director of Railway Audit. I shall be obliged to the Financial Commissioner if he could give us any statistics for the last three or four years as to on how many occasions the Controller of Railway Accounts was promoted temporarily as Director of Railway Audit and then he had to come back and on how many occasions the Director of Railway Audit had to criticise his own action. I find this year the Public Accounts Committee have come to a decision and they have recommended that in future the practice of placing the summary of the financial results of the current year, that we in former years wanted the Financial Commissioner of Railways to place before the Committee, should be discontinued. This is what they say :

“ In this connection the Auditor General raised the question whether the summary of the financial results and the provisional balance-sheets of collieries of the succeeding year, prepared by the Financial Commissioner for presentation to the Committee, might not be discontinued as they had fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally demanded.”

Sir, it was after much discussion that the previous Public Accounts Committee came to the conclusion that as the accounts that the Public Accounts Committee were dealing were 18 months old, it was desirable that the Financial Commissioner of Railways should be asked to give us a summary of the financial results of the current year of the Railways, and the Railway Authorities were pleased to accept that suggestion. I do not see any reason why the Public Accounts Committee this year has gone back on their former recommendation and think that the purpose has been fulfilled. A very useful purpose is really served if we can get a general impression of the current financial condition of the Railways, and, I think, the House will agree with me that it is desirable that the Public Accounts Committee as well as this House should get a general conception of the financial position of the Indian Railways of the current year from the Financial Commissioner. If there is no difficulty,—and, I think there is none, because it was supplied the year before,—I think the Railway Authorities should continue to supply this information for the benefit of the Public Accounts Committee as well as of the Members of this House.

Now, Sir, I should like to deal with the general accounts of the Civil, Military and the Posts and Telegraphs Departments. As regards the Military Accounts Committee, I should like once again to draw the attention of this House to the manner in which the military authorities are very tardy in spending the amount that is allotted to them for expenditure for the Territorial Forces. It is not even a military grant. These ten lakhs were set apart every year from the Civil grant. Though the military authorities can spend 47 and odd crores each year in the visible way, and also incur invisible expenditure, to use the language of my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, yet, not only for this year under comment, but for the few years preceding it, they were always spending only two or three lakhs out of these ten lakhs that were allotted for expenditure for the Territorial Forces in India. Sir, it is no argument to say that they cannot get sufficient recruits in the University Corps or other urban units. If they cannot get sufficient men they should realise that there is something wrong in the very procedure of recruitment. They cannot spend for the whole of British India, in the University forces and urban units, a small amount of ten lakhs annually, for all these years. Their attention has been drawn for the last two years, at least, in the Military Accounts Committee, and, I think, the

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Army Secretary owes it to this House to explain why this small amount of ten lakhs cannot be spent for the military training of the educated classes in India.

Sir, last year I criticised the budgeting of the Postal Department. I am very glad to notice that the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Auditor General, appreciate the great improvement that has been effected in the budgeting of the Postal Department and we expect that in the near future we will have a balanced budget.

One other matter to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is about the large surplus stock of quinine. For the last five years at least, we, in the Public Accounts Committee, have drawn the attention of the Department of Education, Health and Lands to the large stock which is valued at about Rs. 52,22,681 as appears from the appropriation accounts of the year 1932-33. We stressed the point that health is a transferred provincial subject and the Government of India is not called upon to keep in its stores such a huge stock for all these years. Our expert in the Public Accounts Committee, Lieut.-Colonel Gidney, was of the opinion that this quinine will be of no use after a few years, though I know the Government expert differed from him in this view. But, in any case, this large stock which was valued at 52 lakhs would have brought an interest of about eight or nine lakhs to the Central treasury during those six or seven years. I find in this year's report the following :

"The Public Accounts Committee was informed that out of the surplus of 130,000 lbs., lbs. 20,000 have been manufactured into the form of trade quinine, and of the latter, lbs. 4,000 have actually been sold. The department was also at present conducting certain negotiations with the representative of the Kina Bureau for the sale of the surplus. The Committee hoped that the department would be able to report considerable reduction in the surplus stock next year."

I shall be very glad if the Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands can give us some information as to what has come out of these negotiations with the Kina Bureau ; and if these have failed, there is no reason why this large stock should not be disposed of in the open market, because quinine being an article which has an international market, we may lose a few rupees but there is no necessity for stocking this huge amount now for the last eight or ten years.

Lastly, I would like to make a few remarks about a statement that has now been circulated. It was not distributed to the Public Accounts Committee ; but, in that Committee, for the last few years, we were deferring the consideration of some very important points to be referred to the Joint Select Committee that is sitting in England : we merely prepared an appendix and settled that as it was the decision of the Public Accounts Committee to place all the items of the said appendix before the committee in England, who are framing the Constitution ; but I find that, all of a sudden, we have been supplied with the appendix and some decisions of the Government of India thereon, which, as we understood, were going to be placed before the constitution-making committee. I would now like to discuss some of the points raised there as I find that the Government has come to a decision.

Item 3 of the new statement, the question of allowing the Auditor General to have direct access to the Secretary of State, should be considered. This is a very old question pending before the Public Accounts Committee—

I think from its very inception—as to what should be the position of the Auditor General *vis-à-vis* the Government of India. The Public Accounts Committee held, as it is the practice in England, that the position of the Auditor General should be completely independent of the Government of India, and, where there is a strong difference of opinion between the Government of India and the Auditor General he should be given plenary powers to communicate direct with the Secretary of State. As we conceive the constitutional position, and as we find it provided in the Government of India Act itself, the holder of the position of Auditor General should not occupy any Government post after his retirement : we thought that it was absolutely necessary for the purity and independence of audit that this position should be completely unassailable. Not speaking of individuals—I think even the occupation by the Auditor General, after his retirement of a position in the Indian States that are under the direct control of the Political Department of the Government of India, is a infringement of that rule. I do not like to discuss in any way personal matters, and as a matter of fact I have got a high regard for the gentlemen who have occupied that high position. But I still urge and appeal to Government also to see that the occupant of that great position should not even indirectly be holding any office which is even indirectly under the control of the Government of India. That is a question by the way. But the main point that we wanted to raise was that there should be a decision by the committee now framing the constitution in England as to what should be the position of the Auditor General. I find in the reply it is said here :

“ The question has been considered. The Auditor General is fully satisfied with the present position under which his comments on the accounts of the year are forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Government of India in the Finance Department. This question, which is of insignificant importance even now, will be of still importance under the new constitution.”

I am afraid that there has been a complete misconception of the attitude of the Public Accounts Committee on this question. What the Public Accounts Committee wanted, was to make the Auditor General completely independent of any control of the Government of India. It is not the question whether a particular Auditor General, who is occupying this position, may be very happy in agreeing that he is satisfied with his position. It is a constitutional matter that we wanted the Joint Parliamentary Committee should seriously consider, whether they should not safeguard the position of the Auditor General in India, making him completely independent of all influence. So, I appeal to the House seriously to consider this constitutional position of the Auditor General and whether it should not be referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee or others who are making the Constitution for India, and not allow it to be decided here by the Government of India who are certainly interested in this affair, and thinks that this is an “ insignificant matter and will be of still less significance in future ”.

Then there is Item No. 7 which we wanted to be similarly considered—that it should be a convention that an opportunity should be given to the Public Accounts Committee or the Legislative Assembly to express their views before the Governor General declares as non-votable an item of expenditure which has been votable. It was our experience in the Public Accounts Committee to find that a particular item, that we had always considered as votable, was all of a sudden styled as non-votable ; and, when questioned, we were told that the Governor General by his powers had declared it as a non-votable item. As that is the constitutional position we

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did not quarrel with it ; but what the Committee suggested was that before the Governor General, on the advice of the Finance Department, declared a votable item as non-votable, the Committee should be offered a chance to have their say on it. The reply given is :

“ This is a matter to be settled by the Governor General in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, and not one in which advice can be given. The Auditor General now brings to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee any case in which the classification is changed from voted to non-voted.”

Here also I urge that the purpose of the Committee was to put these matters before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in England and that is why it was put in this appendix : we know the legal position that the Auditor General in his comments will tell us that this has been changed from voted to non-voted : we know that : and, further, we did not want to encroach upon the rights of the Government of India, but to get a chance to place our views, before a votable item is declared as non-votable. Here also, I think, there has been misconception and here was no necessity for the Government to decide this matter themselves. What we wanted was that this should be placed before the committee in England.

Then, there is item No. 10—that the Government of India should consider the question of charging to the Army estimates the expenditure on account of the free supply of residences and furniture to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. The reply is :

“ The question has been considered, but the Government of India see no reason for establishing a different position for the residences, *etc.*, of the Army Member from that in vogue for the residences, *etc.*, of other Members of Council.”

No one disputed that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is a Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India. Because, for the army, we have a fixed grant, so we wanted that every expenditure that really pertains to the military side should be put under that heading, so that every man can realise what are the actual military expenses of the Government of India. We do not question whether this furniture should be supplied gratis or for consideration. Those are not the issues that were raised by the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee wanted to have a pure military budget which is for the last few years a contract budget, and they wanted to debit all the items which were really expenditure on the army side to the military budget, and I do not see any reason why the Government should say that because the Commander-in-Chief happens to be a Member of the Council of State or an Ordinary or Extraordinary Member of the Government of India, the expenditure incurred on furniture and other things for him should be debited to the civil grant. Item No. 14 is :

“ That cases like the one in which His Majesty's Government refused to pay a moiety of the cost of certain Diplomatic and Consular establishments in Persia, the Government of India should press for a reference to an independent tribunal.”

Action taken or proposed to be taken is, “ This will be done, when, as in the Capitation case, circumstances render it desirable ”. We shall be glad to hear what are the circumstances which will be considered as desirable when an attempt should be made to relieve the Indian Exchequer to the extent of half of the expenses on the Persian Consular Service. There are some other matters also, but we have very little time today, because we

have given our word to finish these two items, this and Pusa supplementary grant today. I hope that Government will give some explanation of the questions that I have raised on this occasion.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it has often been observed that the Public Accounts Committee performs a *post-mortem* examination, but, in spite of that joke against the Public Accounts Committee, I have found that if anywhere a Committee of this Legislature or this House through a Committee exercises any control over the public finances in India it is the Public Accounts Committee. I am glad to note that the Auditor General in his letter to the Finance Secretary has summarised thus :

“ On the experience which I now possess I feel justified in expressing the opinion that the Public Accounts Committee in general exercises an increasingly effective and salutary influence on the administration of public finance.”

He then refers to some other point on which I hope the Finance Department will take action :

“ I feel, however, that it is unfortunate that the appropriation accounts and the Auditors' reports on the accounts cannot be published earlier than the present state of the law allows. It has been held that those documents are not privileged parliamentary papers until they have been incorporated in the Proceedings of the respective Legislatures, and this requirement necessarily involves delay which in its turn tends to weaken public interest in the documents when finally released. It will be generally agreed, I think, that it is a desirable aim to encourage the study of Government accounts and finance by public opinion outside as well as within the Legislatures ; and I trust that it may be found possible at some future time to improve the present facilities for such study in the practical direction which I have ventured to suggest.”

I suggest that the Government should release to the public the reports of the Directors of Audits of the different departments and also of the Chief Accounts Offices so that a certain amount of public criticism and public education may be carried on in regard to these reports. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, has already alluded to the Special Appendix of 20 points which have been left over till the new Constitution materialises. He has referred to a few of them, and I will refer to one or two other salient points which require the attention of the country, and which, I hope, the Government of India will settle before the new Constitution comes into operation. At the present time, the Home Auditor is not under the Auditor General of India, and we should very much like that he should work under the Auditor General of India. As regards this item No. 4, the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and the views of the Government of India have been placed before the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State and the High Commissioner in London manage the finances of India and the Secretary of State's own salary comes from the British Treasury. So, the money that is provided by India should be audited by an auditor who must be controlled by the Auditor General of India. Again, we are very anxious that the Government of India should consider the question of the allocation of ecclesiastical expenditure between the Civil and the Army departments. The remark is that the matter is still under consideration. We understand from the White Paper that there will be a Counsellor to look after the Ecclesiastical department, but whatever that may be, the Government of India should distribute the expenditure so that one may know what is the proper army expenditure on that account.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Most of the Rs. 31 lakhs should be in the Army Budget.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, reminds me that most of it goes to the Army, because the Civil Servants of the Government of India have very little time to attend to the religious nursing of the missionaries. Another point is, we pay Rs. 25 lakhs as a gift to the Nizam's State because Berar is part of British India, and the remark is, "No such action is possible". What the Public Accounts Committee suggested was, —not that this Rs. 25 lakhs should not be paid to the Nizam's State, but that it should come from the revenues of the Berar Government and not from the revenues of the Central Government. I still urge on the Finance Member to consider why there should be a subvention of Rs. 25 lakhs to the Province of Central Provinces and Berar, and why the general taxpayer should bear this burden and not Berar which is in affluent circumstances ?

I will now discuss certain questions affecting the Finance Department because it is the Finance Department that controls the public finance of India. With due respect, I would first comment on certain actions of the Finance Department. I wanted again to bring to the notice of the House the question of the debt position which we have often raised on the floor of this House and also before the Public Accounts Committee. But, I found that a good debate took place in the other House the other day and I had an opportunity to read the speech of the Finance Member in the Press reports. So, I leave it at that till the next Budget Session comes, when I will raise it again, if I come back. I am not satisfied with all the white washing that my Honourable friend has given that the state of the public finances of India is glorious and that the loan position is very satisfactory. I will only refer to the unsatisfactory result on the financial position of the Government of India of the way in which Provincial Governments mismanage their loans. It seems that the Government of Bombay and the Government of the Punjab are the greatest defaulters. They have taken heavy loans in the past, and, in the past, the Government of India had no machinery to control these capital projects before they sanctioned or incurred such loans. We know those white elephants in the Bombay Presidency—the Bombay Development Scheme is one and the Sukkur Barrage Scheme is another, the heirloom which India has got, rather as a legacy, from Lord Lloyd whose name is perpetuated in that scheme, Lloyd Barrage Scheme. We had a discussion, and the House agreed, though I opposed it, to a free gift of Rs. 1,57,000. I do not mind giving any gifts to the Provinces. We are giving to earthquake-stricken Bihar a gift of 1½ crores and we are making a present of a similar sum in half the jute tax to Bengal. I do not mind giving a present of ten lakhs to the Bombay Government but I do not like to take the moral responsibility of managing a project, which many of us publicly believe, will never be a successful project. The time will come when irresponsible Provincial Governments will try to repudiate their loans and in fact the Government of Bombay have gone to the length of saying : "We want to repudiate the Sukkur Barrage Scheme". My friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, was then the Revenue Member and Mr. Jadhav, a Minister, and the scheme which was expected to cost four crores has mounted up to 25 crores and the interest is piling up and nobody knows where the

interest will come from. I do not like the Provincial Governments to try to repudiate their loan, because, I think, the Bombay Development Scheme will never succeed. The Dredgers, called after Lord Lloyd and Sir Lawless Hepper, have been sold for a song. Then we know the difficulties of the Punjab Government. The Punjab Government in their post-war madness launched into similar schemes such as the Sutlej Valley Scheme. Take the State of Bahawalpur. It has an income of 60 to 80 lakhs. It was at first committed to an expenditure of two crores and we know that the State today has now incurred a debt of 12½ crores. We do not know how the Government of India will get interest from this particular State. The Government of India recently appointed a committee and the report of that committee has not been placed before this House or before the Public Accounts Committee. I am referring to the inquiry over the debt position of the Bahawalpur State. If the Government of India decide to give any relief in interest or capital advanced to the Bahawalpur State, then the irresponsible Government of the Punjab will come forward and say "we cannot pay" our portion of the debt on the Sutlej Valley Scheme and the Government of India should give us relief. So I warn the Government. This is a thing which we have discussed for the last five or six years. We have discussed it every year in the Public Accounts Committee and we have warned them that in future they should not give any loan to the Provincial Governments without examining whether the projects will pay. It should be made clear that whenever Provincial Governments take a loan, it should be a first charge on their revenues. The Bombay Government has indirectly repudiated their obligation. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, may object to the word "repudiation", but when one reads their statement, it boils down to that and I warn the Government that they are heading towards a precipice. The Provincial Governments will revolt against them and in the new Constitution they must tie down the Provincial Governments that whatever loans they incur, they will be a first charge on their revenue. Otherwise, Provincial Governments like Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, which have been very economical and never borrowed money from the Government of India, will have to go by default and the Central revenues will pay the subventions for the extravagance of extravagant Provinces like the Punjab and Bombay.

The next question I wish to refer to is the question of the Provincial balances. The Auditor General for the last five or six years has been bringing this point before the Public Accounts Committee and there are certain Provinces, such as Burma, which draws permanently to the extent of two crores of rupees. In the year under review, the Bengal Government came up next. They borrowed something in the neighbourhood of a crore for so many months, and, in fact, some of the other Provincial Governments have also drawn on the Provincial balances, but, unfortunately, as the Constitution stands today, these Provincial Governments do not pay any interest to the Central Government, and yet the Central Government have been borrowing money to allow these overdrafts to the Provincial Governments, and, therefore, I was glad to find in item 30 of the special memorandum that it is proposed under the new Constitution that Provinces should be required to pay interest on overdrafts. This is a very welcome attitude on the part of the Government, but still, I always view with alarm the way

[Mr. B. Das.]

in which the Provinces spend money derived from Central Government monies without taking steps to realise their money and this applies particularly to Burma.

I will leave the Finance Department there and I will now come to the thorny question regarding the retrenchment of staff in the London Stores Department which works under the High Commissioner and which is a part of the Indian Stores Department in India. Sir, I do not like to remind the House that the Lalji Narainji Stores Purchase Committee is the foundation of this Indian Stores Department which is at present working so successfully and so well under the administrative head of Sir James Pitkeathly and under the direct guidance of my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce. I had the honour and the privilege of being a member of that Stores Retrenchment Committee and I had the privilege to go into its administrative details and although I was opposed to the Indian Stores Department till two years ago and wanted the Department to be abolished, because it was not completely Indianised, or it cannot purchase completely the stores for the Railways and the Army, I came to the conclusion that the department should be continued, but the fly in the ointment is the London Stores Department which still continues in its hectic career. When the Public Accounts Committee insisted on the Government of India to write to the High Commissioner to retrench their staff, we were told that only six lakhs of rupees were reduced by the High Commissioner and the High Commissioner was very apologetic over that and I was surprised to see that he was so very apologetic. Here is the report of the London Stores Department. Today, the total value of the stores purchase was £955,684 which is £773,031 less than the figure of the preceding years. That means that it does not purchase more than a million pounds or 140 lakhs of rupees at present and it has gone down by almost another million pounds. Then it says :

“ The actual expenditure on stores and freight amounted to £1,347,391—a decrease of £1,668,979 from the last year's figures.”

That means that the Department is almost reduced to half its work, and rightly so, because the Government of India have at last conceded and have introduced the principle of calling for rupee tenders ; so, the venue of purchases has been transferred today from London to India. I shall refer first to Appendix B, page 13, which is very interesting. There the Controller of Stores, London, has analysed the position and from the year 1932-33, of this £900,000 worth of orders, purchased through the High Commissioner, the value of stores purchases, which is divided according to the countries of origin, is £497,575 worth. Then there is a foot-note :

“ These figures do not include stores obtained through Departments of His Majesty's Government.”

That means that the balance of £400,000 worth of articles has been purchased through His Majesty's Government. Probably those were orders of the Army Department and they had to be purchased through the Admiralty and the War Office. That means, the Department is only buying half a million worth of things, whereas it used to buy in 1929-30—I am not including the orders purchased through the War Office and

Admiralty—£5 million, in 1930-31, £2.7 million and in 1931-32, £1.32. Then I was surprised to find there is a comment here in paragraph 15 :

“ The gross total cost for 1932-33 is £169,973. This is £32,826 less than the previous year.”

But this £170,000 nearly comes to about 24 lakhs of rupees, while our Indian Stores Department handles business of Rs. 3½ crores per annum. Unfortunately the economic depression has reduced this expenditure. If you exclude the Alipore Test House, which is today a non-commercial organization doing test work for the Government and the public and where the expenditure is Rs. 4.65,000, the commercial account costs Rs. 17,79,765, that is, about Rs. 18 lakhs, whereas in India—and I congratulate the Honourable Member's Department for doing so much business so economically—are spending Rs. 18 lakhs to handle a business of Rs. 3½ crores, both inspection and purchase. In London, the London Stores Department is pursuing a hectic career and spending nearly Rs. 24 lakhs, and the High Commissioner, who was a former Member for Industries and Labour in this House and who knew the wish of the people and of the Government of India that the stores purchase of the Government of India should be centralized through Sir James Pitkeathly's Department, has taken no steps in that direction. Sir, my concrete suggestion is—reduce the staff according to the quantity purchased, and if the latter is only half a million sterling, the total expenditure should not be more than Rs. ten lakhs, and then bring the Department of the Controller of Stores in London under the Control of the Chief Controller of Stores in India.

Sir, I wish just to touch one more point which has been referred to—it is the large consulting fee we pay to the British engineers. Of course, I recognize that this has been reduced, but, knowing that there is the Chief Controller of Stores and his Department, and that the Railways are manufacturing locomotives, designing locomotives and that they have taken over much of the work, I say there is no necessity of paying such heavy sums amounting to £23,000 to the Consulting engineers ; and I want that the Indian Consulting Engineers should be encouraged. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, I come to the next question which concerns the Army Secretary. Now we cannot touch the Army Secretary, and the Army has been on our heads for the last five days (Laughter) but, one thing I will say that in the Military Accounts Committee we found there was an honest and genuine desire on the part of the Quartermaster General, the Engineer-in-Chief, and the Financial Adviser, to reduce the expenditure as far as they could, but unfortunately His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief decided upon a stabilised Budget and demanded Rs. ten crores from the Finance Member, and a note has been produced before the Public Accounts Committee saying that although prices have gone down, the cost of the total mechanization will be Rs. 9.75 crores, and the only reduction that the Army Department has made is one of Rs. 25 lakhs ; and of course they have pointed out in one place that they have already spent Rs. 7½ crores of that sum. But the point that arises to my mind is whether the mechanization is not yet completed and whether they cannot further reduce the army expenditure in India.

[Mr. B. Das.]

Sir, when we were discussing the Capitation Tribunal Report on the floor of the House, the former Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, in his happy and concealed phrases, gave us to understand that India had gained a great advantage, that there was a windfall in the Budget of Rs. two crores which India has profited by. Sir, the Home Auditor, to whom I referred a few minutes ago, and who is not a servant of the Government of India though he draws his salary from us, has commented on this and reported on it to the Public Accounts Committee in a way which rather alarmed me very much. It seems the net result is that whatever Britain demands in the matter of the capitation charges, that is counterbalanced by this so-called Imperial contribution to India. As this document is not a published document and it will not find publication, I may read out a few particular sentences. Sir, the Home Auditor says this :

" On the basis of the Tribunal's Report the following comprehensive settlement between the Imperial and Indian Governments has been negotiated and duly approved :

(1) The majority recommendations of the Tribunal to be accepted.

(2) With effect from 1st April, 1933, an annual contribution of £1,500,000 to be made from Imperial revenues towards the cost of India's defence expenditure ; this contribution to include the Sea Transport Subsidy of £130,000 a year, previously payable by the War Office, and to be shown as a Grant-in-Aid in the India Office vote."

Sir, these are very high-sounding words, but when we heard Sir George Schuster, his were much more high-sounding words :

" (3) With effect from the same date India's payments to the War Office and Air Ministry on account of the respective effective capitation rates to be calculated in accordance with the recommendations of the Tribunal."

And we know for nine months—not for six months as the representatives of the Government of India demanded :

" (4) All arrears, as between the India Office and the respective Imperial Departments, connected with these matters up to 1st April, 1933, to be cancelled."

Sir, I may remind the House that there was some demand of the Government of India left over for expenses carried on during the war and post-war period for the British Government, and everything had been wiped out now by this :

" The India Office and War Office to co-operate in submitting for consideration by the Committee of Imperial Defence the military question whether a reserve should be specifically maintained in England for India."

Sir, I am alarmed at this. If they maintain a reserve, they will
1 P.M. again ask the Honourable the Finance Member to budget for it. Now, the next paragraph is very interesting. It says :

" The net result of the settlement is highly beneficial to Indian revenues in that the contribution from the Imperial Government will approximately balance the estimated annual cost of the Effective Capitation Charges payable to the War Office and the Air Ministry after these charges have been recalculated on the basis recommended by the Tribunal."

Sir, the net result is zero. I had a philosopher friend of mine in the Bombay Presidency and when I used to talk to him he used to say : " Everything results in zero ". So all the expenditure that we have incurred in sending people like Sir Shadi Lal, Sir Muhammad Sulaiman, Mr. Macleod and others, has resulted in zero and the Army Council and the British War Office still want their pound of flesh. They still demand

the capitation charge and why should India pay this charge? Morally, I do not think we are justified in paying the capitation charge as the British army is the army of occupation in India. Sir, the demand that we should get relief from the British Government for the huge army that we maintain in India to help the British Empire in their policy of conquest in the Eastern World has not received any satisfaction and the Imperial Government is not going to pay us a pie. The Finance Member will have to carry on his chequered career without balancing his Budget, because this load of Rs. 44 crores as cost of defence will never allow him to give relief to the Provinces when they get autonomous form of Government or even when the Federal Government comes, if it comes at all.

The next point that I would like to touch is the highest spending department, namely, the Railways.

Mr. P. R. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways) : And earning—I would ask my Honourable friend not to forget that.

Mr. B. Das : My Honourable friend, Mr. Rau, is earning, and I was glad to notice his excellent review of the appropriation accounts of the railways in India. He says :

“ We are fortunately in a position to characterise the year 1930-31 as the year which saw the *nadir* of the fortunes of the Indian Railways.”

I congratulate him that he has at least issued a report with high hopes. I only wish that the Honourable the Finance Member, when he brings out his Budget, also makes a similar forecast as the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for Railways did.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : My predecessor did that.

Mr. B. Das : Yes, that was in my mind when I was referring to it. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, has already pointed out, and I, being an old stager in public accounts and being for nine years on the Public Accounts Committee, must point out that it took us six years to impress upon the Railway Management that there should be some report by the Financial Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner for Railways reviewing the financial results of the Indian Railways. Sir, unfortunately I was over-ruled in the Committee which was referred to just now, and there will be no such reports from the Agents of Railways or even from the Chief Commissioner for Railways. Sir, the very fact that the Public Accounts Committee compelled the Agents of Railways to put their signatures has aroused resentment, but the Public Accounts Committee held them responsible for the administration of the Railways and the financial results have been made broadcast. That is a public gain. I do not know whether we will be able to get these results of Indian railways next year because we find the signatures only of the Chief Commissioner for Railways. Of course, I know that he has assured the Public Accounts Committee that these figures will be always made available to them and also to the House. I know the Financial Commissioner is a big financier and he can carry any figures in his head, but these documents will not be available to us and he will give us only a portion of it from which we will be able to know the result of the succeeding year. Sir, there was a time when the heads of the departments never used to appear before the Public Accounts Committee, but for the last three or four years they do come before the Committee and also the Chief Commissioner for

[Mr. B. Das.]

Railways has honoured us by his presence. They have all replied to our questions in a friendly spirit. Sir Guthrie Russell was examined in detail regarding the financial results of the Railways, and at least I submitted him to a series of questions about this Pope Committee's report on Railways. Sir, you yourself were a Member of the Railway Retrenchment Committee and you recommended that there should be an expert Committee. But Government wanted a Pope to give his pontifical ruling and that Pope's report is here, but unfortunately this Mr. Pope is very touchy. He comes to India and finds that papers are discussing that a Railway Expert Committee be appointed. So, he loses his temper and writes to the Chief Commissioner :

" I see reference is still being made in the Press to the question of the appointment of an Expert Committee to examine methods of Indian Railways. I am still of the opinion that was expressed in my covering letter to the first report of the Committee under my chairmanship, that the Deputy Agents Organisations themselves are qualified to form an Expert Committee but I wish to add two provisos."

The covering letter of his first report unfortunately is not published. However, if Mr. Pope had any grouse he ought to have it either with the Chief Commissioner or with the Honourable the Railway Member. We, the representatives of the public, still believe in the recommendations of a report of a Committee of this House and now we know that Expert Committee is not going to be appointed and Mr. Pope's word is the last word in this matter. Naturally, it is the Papal ukase of Mr. Pope. So he should not have written this in a public document and I condemn this sort of attitude of the members of any committee of the Government of India. He has found fault with the recommendations of the Railway Retrenchment Committee that an Expert Committee should be appointed and says that the Press has no business to ask for it. Sir, the Press of this country voices the opinion of the public and until I read this document I was under the impression that there was going to be an Expert Committee. Anyway, Mr. Pope is of the opinion that the Department, through their Deputy Agents of Organisation, can reduce the expenditure and he has said that they can reduce the expenditure by job analysis, by intensive use of locomotives, by intensive use of workshop plants, by combining all the resources of Railways and also by amalgamating the Railways and also by limiting the stores and by reducing the rates and fares. During the little time that was available to me, I tried to seek information from the Chief Commissioner for Railways. It was pointed out that steps are being taken and some reduction will result. I was one of those few who, in 1925, after the separation of railway finance from general finance, advocated that, wherever possible, the staff of the State Railways should be amalgamated. For instance, in Calcutta, why should there be two head offices for the East Indian Railway and for the Eastern Bengal Railway? Why should not both the offices be combined, so that all the extra expenditure, in having two audit officers and two Chief Accounts Officers and everything in double or treble, may be done away with. The other day, my Honourable friend, the Financial Commissioner, in reply to a question by Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore said, there were difficulties in the way of the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India being amalgamated. I still think they could be amalgamated. Wherever any Company-managed Railways have got an extension of their agreement with the Government of India, then they are nothing but managing agents, managing the Railway on behalf of the Government and

the capital, almost completely, belongs to the Government of India and for the people of India. So anything that will economise and reduce the expenditure should be done and the Government of India ought to address the Home Board of Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. The same remarks apply to the South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member should conclude now.

Mr. B. Das : I am sorry that I have taken a little longer time of the House than I intended, but this is one of the opportunities of acquainting the House with what knowledge is imparted to us by the various departments in the Public Accounts Committee and it is better they are kept on record on the floor of the House so that others, who come after us, may take cognizance of the same. I may not be again on the Public Accounts Committee, but I wish to assure the House that although the Public Accounts Committee does not contain those elements that used to be on it in 1926-27—in those days there was Mr. K. C. Roy, who is no more and there was Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, and these two have been translated to the other world, there was Mr. Neogy and Mr. Joshi on the Committee and these gentlemen have contributed and established a convention by which we that succeeded them have established a stricter financial control and although we have been derided that we are doing a *post mortem* examination in the committee, yet the very fact that the Government being faced with financial depression and economic depression had to listen to our criticism and it shows the hold that the Public Accounts Committee had on the Government with the result that they exercised better financial control over their public finances. (Applause.)

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the Financial Commissioner of Railways reminded this House that the Railway Department is an earning department. It reminded me of the story of the boy who was deputed by his mother every day to earn money by begging. So he collected Rs. 2 every day, but, before he came home, he spent Rs. 2-4-0, and when his mother rebuked him, he said, "But you must remember that I am the earning member of the family. I earn Rs. 2 a day". The same is the case with my Honourable friend, Mr. P. R. Rau. Though he no doubt earns, but he forgets that he spends much more than he earns, and it is a source of great annoyance to the tax-payers of India when we find that he spends much more than he earns. I notice from the report supplied by him that last year he over-spent by about ten crores and he did not pay the dues, which he had to pay, to the general revenues, that is, one per cent. of the capital at charge. So he cannot say, until he makes two ends meet, that he is an earning member of the family known as the Government of India.

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

Sir, coming to the specific points, I will not touch on everything from A to Z, as I did last year, but I will confine my attention to a very few points which are mentioned in the two reports supplied to us. In the first place, I take this from page 7 of the first report :

"The Director of Railway Audit also raised the question whether in view of the difficulties involved in preparing accurate balance-sheets and profit and loss accounts of individual railways such accounts should now continue to be prepared."

I think this is now a very important and an important question. If we continue the system of having every line complete in itself, why not have a separate profit and loss account and demand the grant, not in a lump sum, but for each railway separately, so that we can have an occasion to review the working of each line. No doubt the pink books are supplied to us and we are given certain accounts, but if the demands are made separately for each particular railway, we will have an opportunity to compare the income and expenditure of each railway. Because, in the same book we find that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway does not even pay the interest charges ; it is running most uneconomically ; while the Bombay, Baroda and Central India is running economically. If the demands are made separately for each railway during the budget discussion, we will know what the position is and criticise the administration of each line separately and compare the income and expenditure of each item in each railway.

The second point mentioned here is about collieries. We find this in the report :

"The Director of Railway Audit has brought to our notice a case in which the negotiations of an agreement about certain collieries have been pending for over 20 years."

I know, of course, that 20 years is not a very big period for the Railways, and nothing has yet been settled. Again, we find also the following :

"In this connection the Auditor General raised the question whether the summary of the financial results and the provisional balance-sheets of collieries of the succeeding year, prepared by the Financial Commissioner for presentation to the Committee, might not be discontinued as they had fulfilled the purpose for which they were originally demanded."

Sir, the question of Railway collieries has been the subject of discussion for a long time and it seems desirable that there should be a separate balance-sheet for the Railway-managed and the Railway-owned collieries and the demands should be made separately in the list of demands so that we may be able to criticise these things. No doubt all the items are included in the totals given in the General Budget, but they are put in such a manner that there is no one except the Financial Commissioner himself who can understand all the details of the budget which is presented to us. But if the account of each railway is made separately we will be able to follow it.

Thirdly, there is the question of depreciation. This is also reviewed by both these committees. I remember distinctly that the Honourable Member for Railways once said that the amount debited on account of depreciation was perhaps too much. But the Railway Accounts Committee did not discuss the question, whether it was too much or too little, sufficient or insufficient, but they said that there were no rules by which we can find

out whether a particular item does or does not come within the purview of the depreciation fund. I think the rules should be framed and we should know definitely whether a particular item can or cannot come within the purview of this expenditure. And, I think the time has now come when we ought to take cognisance of the facts and determine exactly the amount of depreciation which we have to allow each year and define exactly the purpose of this depreciation fund. At present it is the milch-cow of the Railway Department. When there is a deficit, they fall back on the depreciation fund as if it is there always to be drawn from. In the book, they, of course, say that it is a kind of loan on which they pay interest. But I think it is not the intention of the depreciation fund that it should be given as a loan, and to the very same department for which it is created. It was really created with the object of meeting emergencies, and if it is spent in ordinary expenditure, then when an emergency comes they will have no money to fall back upon.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, is not here or I would have said something about him. Perhaps I shall say that on some other occasion. But there are one or two points which he raised to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first point he raised was about Berar. There is no doubt that we pay 25 lakhs from the General Revenues, and he said that though we may not object to paying 25 lakhs a year, we should know where we are. I think it is very desirable that we should at least know what are the revenues and expenses of Berar, how much of the income passes to the expenses of the Central Provinces, and, after receiving the income from Berar, what are the deficits of the Central Provinces and how much we are going to contribute? In the case of the North-West Frontier Province we know that we have to pay a subsidy and we know the reasons. Here we pay a subsidy to the Central Provinces Government in an indirect form and I think it is desirable that we should know the exact particulars. We should know how much Berar contributes to the Central Provinces and how much we have to contribute to the same Government on account of Berar, and so on.

The next point he raised was about the audit and expenditure incurred in England. This is also very important that all the expenses, either by the Secretary of State or the High Commissioner for India, must come within the purview of the Auditor General in India and he should be responsible for all the expenditure incurred by the Indian Exchequer. Of course he will have to depute somebody who is responsible to the Auditor General to check the expenses. Therefore, all the expenses incurred by the Indian Exchequer in the country or outside ought to come within the purview of the Auditor General.

The next point he raised is also very important and is the question of building expenses. I notice there the Public Accounts Committee in their Report for 1932-33 also reviewed the problem. They maintain—and I think rightly—that whenever you build a house for residential purposes this house must be considered to be a paying concern. You come forward and demand these grants; you make us believe that they are paying concerns, but really they are not. Therefore, whenever we build a house and a plan is drawn up, it ought to be reckoned whether the rent actually realised will pay the interest on the capital charges. This is exceedingly important and in these calculations we very often omit the rent of the ground, with the result that to certain classes of officers, we give large compounds, because the rent of the land is not calculated, and in other cases,

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

like the poor Members of the Assembly, they get practically no grounds, because they are birds of passage and they are not there to demand this particular privilege. I think it is desirable that whenever a demand is made, we ought to be assured that this will be a paying proposition and that the ten per cent. realised from the salaries of those persons will pay the interest and repair charges.

Coming now to one or two other points of Mr. Das, I would first tell him that according to the old philosophers, if you want to know your merits and demerits, you must always consult those persons who sit close by you—what they call *Hamnashin*. I have that privilege and so I am in a better position to say what kind of man he is. I know he has got all the virtues : we have a very high opinion of his honesty, tenacious character and stability of opinion and so on ; but he has got one very bad vice which I have no hesitation in mentioning on the floor of the House. He has got a fiancée and he is desperately fond of her and on no occasion will he stand anything being said against her. If you ask me to reveal her name, I have no hesitation in saying that her name is Orissa : he is so jealous of his fiancée, that is Orissa, that he cannot stand her remaining with either Bengal or Bihar ; he would like her to be separated and associated with neither person—Bengal or Bihar.....

Mr. B. Das : But I am married in Madras.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The last point which I would like to deal with is that about combination of Railways : this is really a big issue on which we can have a whole day's debate. I think we ought to try and combine all the Railways into one unit : perhaps we may have some difficulty about some of the Company-managed Railways ; but England solved this problem : they had at first a large number of concerns : they combined them into five units and now they are trying to combine those five units into one ; and now it is practically certain that all their communications will be combined into one large central administration, because, in these days, we cannot have different administrations and we cannot afford to pay higher overhead charges. So, not only in the case of Eastern Bengal Railway and the East Indian Railway, which we advocated more than once, but in the case of all the Railways I would advocate a combine ; but this is a point which is really very big, and in the short time at my disposal I cannot develop it. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Sir, railways have come in as usual for a good portion of the criticism in this debate, and with your permission I shall very briefly endeavour to answer some of the criticisms that have been levelled against them. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, asked me to let him know about the exact position of the Government with regard to certain questions that were raised in the Public Accounts Committee last year. It is a pity he was not present at the meetings of the Committee this year where the same questions were asked of me and I gave a fairly full reply. The first point he raised was as regards concessions for military traffic. This question is at present under the consideration of the Government and I have been authorised by the Honourable the Railway Member to say that it is hoped that the question will be settled within a short time and probably before the next Budget is introduced.

The second point raised was with regard to the problems connected with the depreciation fund. Government fully realise that this is a matter of very great importance, but it must not be taken as purely or even mainly an accounting matter. It is a matter of great financial importance and the question is intimately connected with other questions of still greater importance, of the future financial relations between Railways and the Central Government as to how the surplus if any should be allocated between the Central Government and the Railways and so on, and I am sure, my Honourable friend will realise that these are questions which cannot be decided in a hurry. I can assure him, however, that the matter is engaging the serious attention of the Government.

The third point he raised was with regard to the discontinuance of the summary of financial results. I am unable to say why the Public Accounts Committee, to the report of which my Honourable friend is a signatory, has decided to go back on their previous recommendation. But, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, told the House, I should be quite prepared to answer any questions which the committee may wish to put as regards the results of the following year if the meetings of the committee take place in July or later.

Finally, Mr. Mitra referred to what he called the anomaly of the Director of Railway Audit being posted as officiating Controller of Railway Accounts and after a short time being reverted as Director of Railway Audit ; and he asked me on how many occasions the same thing had happened ? So far as I recollect, this is the only occasion on which such an arrangement has been made. This aspect of the case, I must say, was not lost sight of at that time and the appointment in question was made after full consultation and with the full approval of the Auditor General. It will be clear to the House that in the present situation, when most of the senior posts in the Railway Accounts Service are being filled by officers borrowed from the Audit Department, it is impossible to avoid such occurrences ; and, in the second place, there is in some respects a definite advantage in the officers responsible for audit having an intimate and detailed knowledge of the accounts and having opportunities of coming in closer contact with the accounts than would otherwise be the case if they were always in the Audit Department.

Sir, I have been authorised by the Auditor General to say, and I may add, as a member of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, it gives me great pleasure to convey it to this House—I have been authorised by the Auditor General to say that in his opinion the officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and of the Indian Audit Department can be fully trusted to maintain an attitude of independence in whatever position they are placed.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : This claim is made for every service !

Mr. P. B. Rau : The next speaker who took part in the debate, was Mr. B. Das, and I was agreeably disappointed in his reference to Railways. He usually roars like a lion, but today he cooed as gently as a sucking dove. The only faults he could find with the administration of the Railways were two, one was an attack on his own colleagues of the Public Accounts Committee for certain recommendations which they made, and the other was an attack on Mr. Pope for venturing to express an opinion about the necessity or otherwise of an expert committee. I need not dwell

[Mr. P. R. Rau.]

on the first point at all. On the second, I do not think Mr. Pope meant any sort of disrespect to public opinion, whether expressed in this House or elsewhere, and least of all, to the Committee over which you, Sir, so ably presided, when he expressed his opinion that, after having gone, as far as possible in the limited time at his disposal, over the economies already achieved by the railways, the most important thing was to concentrate on what might, at first sight, be considered minor points of detail rather than have a full dress expert enquiry into questions of policy. At his suggestion the Railway Department placed certain officers on special duty in most of the Railways, and the results of this job analysis, as it has been called, have been fully summarised in a report which I placed recently before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, copies of which are contained in their proceedings. Briefly, I may say that on five Railways,—from State-managed Railways, excluding the Burma Railways, and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway,—it has been reported that, in 1933-34, these investigations into minor details resulted in a saving of about Rs. 30 lakhs per annum.

Finally, I come to my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who claimed that the Railways cannot be termed an earning Department. In this connection I would like to read a short extract from the volume entitled “Results of Working of Indian Railways for 1933-34” which was recently published.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What is the book ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : “Results of Working of Indian Railways”. It was prepared by Sir Guthrie Russell and myself. Here we said :

“The year 1933-34 marks the end of the first decade since the separation of the Railway Budget from the General Budget of the Government of India, and it is convenient to consider the results of the decade as a whole. Of the ten years, the first six were prosperous years and the next four the reverse, but, on the whole, the net result of working of the State-owned Railways in India during these years was a surplus of 20 crores and an accumulated balance in the Depreciation Fund of 32 crores.”

I am sure that no railways in the world have, in the period mentioned, produced such results as these. Secondly, if my Honourable friend had calculated the profits of Railways, as he wanted this House to do in the case of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, profits expressed, not as a ratio of the capital at charge, but as a ratio of operating expenses, he will find that our profits are usually 50 per cent. of the operating expenses. (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What about the interest charges ? That is really the most important point. You have forgotten that.

Mr. P. R. Rau : My Honourable friend forgot interest charges when he was talking about the Tata Iron and Steel Company. (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : You can only say you are running most economically, but you cannot say you are running profitably.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : He is following the Honourable Member's line ! (Laughter.)

Mr. P. R. Rau : Finally, my Honourable friend referred to the absence of profit and loss accounts of individual railways, separate

balance sheets of collieries, and definite rules about depreciation fund. I spend a good deal of time preparing a number of memoranda for various committees of this Legislature and for this Legislature itself, and I usually take special precautions to send a copy of these publications, particularly to my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad. Sir, one can take a horse to the water, but one cannot make him drink. (Laughter.) I think my Honourable friend's speech today shows conclusively that he has not done me the honour of reading any of the reports that have been placed before him for the last two or three years.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : You can examine me on any page and I will answer !

Mr. P. R. Rau : Profit and loss accounts of individual railways and separate balance sheets for collieries have been circulated to members of the Public Accounts Committee and they have been in the Library of the House for the last three or four years, and the rules about the depreciation fund were promulgated about ten years ago.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What I said was that there ought to be a separate demand in the budget for collieries. No doubt the accounts are there, but no separate demand is asked for them, but there ought to be a separate demand for it in the budget.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I hope that my Honourable friend will do us the honour of reading the memoranda placed before him more carefully in the future. Finally, there is the question of combination of Railways in one administration. This is a recommendation which my Honourable friend has been fond of making in this House and outside. He wants the whole of the Railways in India to be administered by one Railway Administration with a 100 divisional superintendents, or was it 25, I am not sure !

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : 32.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not know why my Honourable friend particularly likes that figure 32 except that it is the fifth power of two. He apparently wants either two to be raised to the power of five or five raised to the power of two. But I think the House will agree with me that it is bound to be a top-heavy administration if one administration at Delhi or anywhere else in India were to control in detail the administration of a number of railways of over 40,000 miles in length. Anyway, the question of amalgamation of adjacent lines, which has been recommended by the Pope Committee, is receiving attention of the Government, and subject to practical difficulties that I alluded to in my reply to a question a day or two ago, we hope that we shall be able to do, whatever we can, in this matter in order to obtain economy combined with efficiency. (Cheers.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, the Departments, in my charge, have, with one small exception, escaped unscathed from the criticisms of the three very acute students of the report of the Public Accounts Committee who have spoken. Before I refer to the point raised by Mr. Das, which is the only point I am called upon to answer, I should like to say that I very much appreciate what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, regarding the improved position of the finances of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and hope that we shall not make too bad a showing at the end of this year. My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das,

3 P.M.

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

confessed that, as a result of his work on the Stores, Printing and Stationery Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee, he had been compelled to admit the excellent work which was being done by the Indian Stores Department, and he paid a tribute, which I greatly appreciate and which I am glad to have the opportunity of endorsing, to all that Sir James Pitkeathly has done as the head of that department. Well, Sir, I think we on these Benches would be almost prepared to endure the terrors of further retrenchment committees if we could secure such whole-hearted conversions from Honourable Members opposite as has been the case with Mr. Das. His conversion has been so complete that he now wants the Indian Stores Department to take on more work and to take over the work of the Stores Department in London. He has raised a difficult question which has been and still is under our consideration. My own view is that the amalgamation of the two departments is bound to come in course of time. Their recent history shows that complete fusion will probably in the end be desirable, but, in the meantime, there are difficulties and I should be failing in my duty to the House if I did not point them out. There is the difficulty arising from the position of the High Commissioner as representative and Agent of the Governor General in India. There is the difficulty arising from securing effective control of day to day operations in England, and there is always the possibility of delays in disposal of business if references back to India have to be made as they would have to be if the two Departments were amalgamated. Those are some of the difficulties which stand in the way of amalgamation, but I can assure my Honourable friend and the House generally that we shall continue with our examination of this question and see how far those difficulties can be overcome. As I have said, complete fusion is inevitable, but the time at which and the manner in which amalgamation can be effected will require most careful consideration and examination in consultation with the High Commissioner for India. My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, stressed the desirability, meanwhile, of effecting all the economies we can in the working of the Stores Department in London and I need hardly assure him that that is also a point which is engaging our careful attention. I have seen the evidence which was given before the Public Accounts Committee and I noticed a remark by my Honourable friend that it might take me ten years to make up my mind on that subject. I am not in the habit of keeping files lying for ten years. I must admit that owing to my preoccupations with the work of the Assembly this Session, the particular file about the Stores Department in England has been on my table for three weeks. I should like to point out that very considerable economies have already been effected in the expenditure on the London Stores Department. It had been reduced from £240,918 in 1930-31 to £169,973 in 1932-33—a very considerable reduction. Further economies have, I think, been effected since the end of 1932-33, but I have not the figures available. What I would like to emphasize is that one cannot judge the extent of economy which should be effected by the mere fall in the purchases made by the department. The two things do not bear an exact mathematical relation and the fact that the purchasing work of the department has fallen by half or three-fourths does not mean that the expenditure on the department can be reduced in like measure. It has other duties than complying with demands by purchasing authorities in India—an important duty,

it is true but it is certainly not the only one. It inspects stores and supplies during manufacture and before shipment from manufacturers' works in Europe. It assists purchasing authorities in India to obtain the widest possible field of competition for their orders. It acts as the agent of the purchasing authorities in India in dealing with references from tendering firms in Europe. It examines and reports, when so required, to purchasing authorities in India on tenders received from firms in Europe on which technical advice is required. It assists the High Commissioner's Education Department to obtain openings for practical training for Indian scholars and students and it arranges shipment of stores purchased in India on an *F.O.B.* European or American port basis by authorities in India. I think I have shown that the fall in the value of the purchases actually made by the London Stores Department is not a true measure of the work which is done on behalf of India by that department. Much of the work undertaken by the London Stores Department takes the form of assistance to the purchasing departments in India and is to a great extent complementary to the work done in these departments. There is no question of rivalry between the Indian Stores Department in this country and the London Stores Department. The two are complementary, and their relations, I am glad to say, are most harmonious. I can only assure my Honourable friend once more that we are keeping in very close touch with the situation in regard to the work of the Stores Department and, as that work falls, we shall do our best to secure all possible economies compatible with efficiency.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, referred to one more point, and that is the fee which is paid to the Consulting Engineers in England. He did not say very much about it as he knew that it has recently been reduced. From 1925 to 1928 it was £7,000. This is, of course, apart from the actual cost of inspections carried out by the Consulting Engineers, but the fee paid to the partners in the years 1925-28 was £7,000. In the years 1929-32, it was £7,800, from 1932-33, it was £7,020, in 1933-34 it was £7,000 and from this year for two years it has been reduced to £6,000. We have entered into a short term arrangement in order that we may have an opportunity of reconsidering the point at the earliest possible date with reference to the work we find that the firm is doing for us. I trust I have said enough to convince the House that we are exploring all possible means of economy in connection with the work of the London Stores Department.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, very much has not come my way in this debate, but what has come is the bitterest stuff of all, quinine, so I had better get over what I have to say pretty quickly. My Honourable friend wanted to know the exact position as regards the negotiations with the Kina Bureau. My Honourable friend will appreciate that the details of these negotiations cannot, in the very nature of things, be disclosed, but, as a result of the conversations which I had with the representative of the Bureau, we have already addressed those Local Governments, which are within our sphere of influence, as also the Government of Bengal which has, as my Honourable friend is aware, also a very large surplus stock of quinine, and we have asked those Local Governments to let us have their views not later than the beginning of September, because the Kina Bureau has promised to let us have their final terms by the 15th September. I am hoping that, as a result of these negotiations, we shall, as our depart-

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

mental representatives foreshadowed before the Public Accounts Committee, be able to give a much more satisfactory account of the disposal of surplus stocks of quinine next year than we have been able to do so far.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby (Army Secretary) : Sir, on the army side we are so much more accustomed to kicks than compliments as regards the administration of our finances that I welcome all the more the kind remarks which were made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, about the improvement which the Public Accounts Committee had noticed in this respect in the course of their consideration of the army accounts, and which he coupled particularly with the names of the Quartermaster General, the Master General of the Ordnance and the Engineer-in-Chief.

The first point with which I have to deal is the question of the Civil Grant for the Indian Territorial Force to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, referred. The Civil Grant had its origin in the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee over which General Sir John Shea presided. That Committee suggested that, as the Indian Territorial Force was largely a political and educational body, a grant should be made from civil funds to develop it in certain respects. The process of development has admittedly not been as fast as it might have been. We have been tied down by the terms under which the Civil Grant is given to spending it on a particular series of items of which I will refer to only three. One of the most radical innovations resulting from the Committee's report was the introduction of the Urban Units of the Indian Territorial Force, and we found these units bad starters in most cases ; in fact, I am sorry to say, that the Madras unit has never really started at all in spite of the very vigorous campaign conducted by Sir Sivaswami Aiyar in Madras itself. We budgeted for the full strength, but the actual strength never rose beyond three figures. Another item was the provision of senior-grade officers, that is officers of the rank of Second-Lieutenant, Lieutenant, Captain and above. It took us some time to get more than one or two of these for any of the units—I admit it was partly due to the over-elaborate system of selection that we had laid down—and as a result most of the pay that we had budgeted for for them lapsed. Again, though we had a considerable number of boys in the University Training Corps units which were paid for from this Grant, under the rules, the Corps does not draw any money for any individual unless he makes himself efficient. Efficiency includes attendance in camp and the attendance in camp was in every case very small. These were some of the difficulties that we had to contend with and as a result we only worked up gradually towards the original figure of Rs. ten lakhs which was reduced in 1931-32 to Rs. eight lakhs. In 1931-32, we got up to within half a lakh of the amount granted, and then came retrenchment. I am afraid that it is retrenchment that in recent years has made it difficult for us to spend the full amount granted. I would add that the total expenditure on the Indian Territorial Force is the one thing that in the whole of the Army Budget has not suffered a twenty per cent. decrease since 1931.

Next I pass to my friend, Mr. Das's point about the re-equipment programme, which arises out of Annexure III to the Military Accounts

Committee's Report. I must say that I think the points that he raised in connection with the spending of the ten crores, at which the re-equipment programme was originally fixed, are all dealt with in the note which forms that Annexure. That note makes it absolutely clear, I think, that we have not gone outside the limits of the original programme and that the financial control by our own Financial Adviser and also by the Finance Department proper have been extraordinarily strict. There is one point in this connection that I would like to make. We have not really had a stabilized Budget for a long time, nor have we ever had the ten crores for the programme. The stabilised Budget was to go on for four years from 1928-29 at a figure of 55.10 crores, but the figure began to drop in 1930-31 and now in 1934-35 we are more than ten crores below it.

Finally, Sir, I have to deal with the reference to the Capitation Tribunal's award which is made in the report of the Home Auditor. My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, quoted what was said in that report, viz.:

"The net result of the settlement is highly beneficial to Indian revenues in that the contribution from the Imperial Government will approximately balance the estimated annual cost of the effective capitation charges."

This is not a new point at all. I would refer him to the speech made by the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, in January, 1932, in this House in which he said:

"In broad result the effect of this award is to wipe out the capitation charges, taking into account the amount of the general contribution."

We should all have liked the award to be greater, but it cannot be denied that it has been a wind-fall even though it produces a zero result if balanced against the capitation charges. (Applause.)

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, as the questions raised during this discussion relating to other Departments have already been dealt with, I shall confine myself to the points relating to the Finance Department. My Honourable friend, Mr. Mitra, criticized the delay in the discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee by this House. Unfortunately it is true that there has been some delay in the past, but I may mention that this year the report was signed only ten days ago and it is being discussed in the House today, and I hope that we shall be able to do the same in future years. The next question raised by my friend, Mr. Mitra, was the question of allowing the Auditor General to have direct access to the Secretary of State. Sir, this question was first raised by the Auditor General himself. At present, the Auditor General is fully satisfied with the present position under which his comments on the Appropriation Accounts are incorporated in a letter which is forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Government of India.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : There has been a change of personnel ; the Auditor General who raised the question is no longer in office.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : The present Auditor General is satisfied with the present position.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : It is not a question of an individual ; it is a constitutional question, and it matters not whether a particular Auditor General is satisfied.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : And as the present Auditor General is satisfied with the position as it stands at present, the Government of India do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Was it not decided that the question should be referred to the Constitution Committee in London ? Why now have the Government of India been going back upon the opinion which they accepted formerly ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : Because formerly the then Auditor General was pressing for it.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Was it not decided by the Public Accounts Committee, and did not the Government of India accept the suggestion that this question should be referred to the Constitution-making Committee ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I do not think it is correct to say that the Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee ; that recommendation was made on a suggestion by the Auditor General but the latter now does not press the point.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : How many years before was that decided and when was that opinion revised ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I think it was decided about five years ago.

The next question raised by Mr. Mitra was that an opportunity should be given to the Public Accounts Committee or this House to express their views before the Governor General declares as non-votable an item of expenditure which has been hitherto votable. Sir, the question whether an item is votable or non-votable is to be decided by the provisions of section 67A of the Government of India Act, and, under the provisions of that section, the decision of the Governor General on any question of doubt is to be final. I have no doubt that the opinion which the Governor General would receive before deciding a question will be expert legal opinion and I do not think it will serve any useful purpose if the question is placed either before the Public Accounts Committee or before this House. It is purely a question whether the item is covered by section 67A of the Government of India Act. Mr. Mitra then referred to the question of the debit of the cost of residence of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to the Army Budget. Sir, the reason urged by him in favour of his proposal was that all expenditure relating to the Army should be included in the Army Budget. As this House is aware, there are several other items which the Honourable Members would like to be included in the Army Budget. The whole question is one which will have to be considered in detail when a definite contract grant is to be fixed for Defence after the inauguration of the new Constitution. In any case, the Government of India are at present of opinion that no change as regards this particular item is necessary. Mr. Mitra next referred to item No. 14 in the special appendix and desired to know what are the circumstances which would render it desirable to refer the case to arbitration, and, in dealing with this item, he referred to the expenditure on Persian Legation. I am afraid he made some mistake and thought that this item No. 14 related to the expenditure on Persian Legation. The expenditure on Persian Legation is shown against item No. 18 and against this item it has been noted that it is under the consideration of the Government of India in connection with the constitutional changes. Item No. 14

relates only to some expenditure which was incurred in Persia immediately after the war and about the incidence of which there was some disagreement. All that the Government of India meant by this remark was that if a similar occasion should arise in future, they would consider the suggestion made by the Public Accounts Committee.

I next come to the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das. He referred to the position of the Home Auditor and to the allocation of ecclesiastical expenditure between Civil and Army Budgets. As stated in the remarks column, both these items are under consideration at present. Mr. Das referred to the payment of Rs. 25 lakhs on account of Berar and desired to know why that amount was debited to the Central Government and not to the Provincial Government. Sir, under the Government of India Act all payments to be made in accordance with a treaty with any Indian State are treated as political charges and all political charges are Central under the Devolution Rules. I may also mention that the fact that the Central Provinces Government was getting all the revenue of Berar and the Central Government was paying this 25 lakhs was taken into account during the Meston Settlement.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : May I ask one question ? Can the Honourable gentleman tell us what is the exact amount of the revenue of Berar ? Also what is the expenditure and what is the net profit ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I am afraid I cannot give the figures off-hand, but I can assure my friend that there is a definite allocation of revenues between Berar and the Central Provinces and in doing this the actual revenue realised and the expenditure incurred in Berar is taken into account.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Are these figures available ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : I think they are. Mr. Das in the course of his remarks said that the Governments of Bombay and the Punjab have repudiated the loans taken by them from the Government of India. I do not know exactly what he meant by this. He added that the Bombay Development Scheme was not going to be a success and so the Government of Bombay were not paying interest on the loans taken by them for those schemes. I can assure him that the Government of Bombay is paying the full amount of interest on all the loans taken by them for their development schemes. It is only on the loan taken by them for the Sukkur Barrage that no interest is being paid and it was one of the arrangements, at the time the loan was taken, that during the period of the construction of the Barrage the interest which could not be paid from the sales of land is to be debited to capital.

Mr. B. Das : Did not the Government of Bombay suspend the payment of their interest charges last year because they had no money ?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row : No, Sir, they did not suspend the payment of their interest charges. They do pay their interest charges but they have suspended only the repayment of capital owing to financial difficulties. If Sind is not separated from Bombay, the Bombay Government will continue to be responsible for the amounts advanced by the Government of India for the Sukkur Barrage. The difficulty has arisen because the question of the separation of Sind is now under consideration. My Honourable friend also desired that a careful examination of all the projects for which money is advanced by the Government of

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India should be made by them before the money is advanced. I can tell him that this is being done at present as carefully as we could. He also referred to the future relations between the Central Government and the Provinces. Sir, the Government of India realise that this is a matter of very great consequence and I may assure him that it is a matter which will receive the most careful consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That the Assembly do approve the expenditure of Rs. 1,68,943 incurred in 1931-32 on additions and alterations to the Locomotive Running Shed at Bhusawal and of Rs. 54,713 incurred in the same year on installation of wireless sets on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the East Indian Railway.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

CIVIL.

EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ Expenses in connection with Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research ’.”

Sir, this is the first instalment of the capital expenditure on the removal of the Agricultural Institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi. It has been carefully examined in the Standing Finance Committee and it has been ventilated a good deal in the press and in this House. I have no doubt that a number of Honourable Members wish to make observations about it and I do not want to detain the House longer than is required merely to move formally the motion. Any points which may arise in the debate will, of course, be dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who is much more experienced in these matters than I am.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of ‘ Expenses in connection with Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research ’.”

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir (Applause), in trying to resist the passage of this supplementary demand through the House I feel I am ploughing the sands of the sea shore. In the decision of a question of this kind, provincial jealousy and provincial points of view are apt to cloud our vision, but still I hope that Honourable Members will look at this question not from the provincial point of view, but from an all-India point of view and specially

from the point of view of the general rate-payer of this country who is going to be mulcted to the tune of over 36 lakhs of rupees. Sir, I should very briefly place before the House the history of this scheme. It was on 4th June, 1903, that the Government of India addressed a Despatch to the Secretary of State embodying a scheme for the establishment of an Agricultural Research Institute, an Experimental Farm and an Agricultural College at Pusa in the District of Durbhanga, and not in the District of Muzaffarpur as has been wrongly recorded in the official memorandum which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee. Lord Curzon, that far-sighted statesman (Hear, hear), devoted a great portion of the generous donation of £30,000 which had been given to him by an American gentleman, Mr. Henry Phipps of Chicago, to be applied to some object of utility preferably in connection with scientific research. Now, Sir, a large Government estate happened to be available to Lord Curzon at that time, and he utilised this money for the establishment of an institution which is now known as the Pusa Research Institute. Sir, the continuance of this institute at Pusa has been attacked from various points of view. It has been stated that the soil of that place or the climate of that portion of Bihar is not suitable to Agricultural research like the one we have there. In that connection, I will read out only a short passage from that agricultural Bible of the Government which is called the report of the Royal Agricultural Commission, by which many of my Honourable friends swear, and I presume my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who is going to speak, is very likely to quote from it. I will quote just one small passage from the report. It will be found at page 46 (Chapter III) :

“ In this connection we should mention that we have given careful consideration to the question whether this handicap could not be removed by transferring the work now carried on at Pusa to some more eligible site.”

—the handicap referred to is its supposed inaccessibility—

“ We are, however, of opinion that so much has been spent on buildings and equipment and on the development of the estate that it would be impossible to justify such a proposal. Moreover, the climate is good and the soil fertile and well suited to the growing of important Indian crops. A district chosen by men with a good eye for country such as the early Dutch and English planters is not lightly to be abandoned.”

I need not quote more. (Laughter.) If my Honourable friends want, I will read further :

“ The second reason is the relative decline in the prestige of the Pusa staff.”

I wanted to make no reference to this as I did not want to cast any sort of reflection on the staff of Pusa, and that is why I did not want to continue the quotation.

With regard to the comparative inaccessibility, I may state that it is not more inaccessible than most other parts of the country. The only thing is a journey by steamer and a journey by the Bengal and North Western Railway. With regard to this question of comparative inaccessibility I will read out one short passage from the *Times of India* which is generally inclined to view a particular question from the stand point of the Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It has now been deposed by Government in favour of the *Statesman*.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : However, with regard to this comparative inaccessibility, this paper in its leading article dated the 20th July, 1934, states as follows :

“ Those of us who know our India would not regard such disabilities in too serious a light. They may sound rather tragic to people accustomed to the accessibility of all corners of England, but in this country such difficulties of access can be taken almost as a matter of course not only in getting to Pusa but in getting to many other parts.”

One can as well argue that as Coimbatore is situated at a far off corner of the Indian Peninsula, the Agricultural Research Institute which is established there and which is doing such good work should be transferred to the neighbourhood of Delhi. This question of inaccessibility is not a very serious question. Of course, I know that on account of this comparative inaccessibility a few Members who are at the head of the Government of India are at present precluded from visiting the Pusa Research Institute twice or thrice a year.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly) : How many from South India could visit the Pusa Research Institute ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : How many from North India could visit the Agricultural Institute at Coimbatore, and will you, therefore, agree to the Research Institute at Coimbatore being transferred to the neighbourhood of Delhi ?

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar : Oh ! yes, if you can prove that Coimbatore is not really suitable, as Pusa is not suitable.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I find from the departmental memorandum which has been submitted to us that the mere cost of transfer of the equipment and other things from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi would cost about 2½ lakhs of rupees. Now, let us look at the way in which this proposal has been hatched in darkness and comparative secrecy and placed before us almost as an accomplished fact. The sanction of the Secretary of State has already been obtained behind the back of the Standing Finance Committee and of the House, and a notification has already been issued for the acquisition of land.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I do not wish to interrupt my Honourable friend, but I should like to correct one particular statement, namely, that the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained behind the back of the Standing Finance Committee. That statement is not correct, because Sir George Schuster, the then Finance Member, towards the end of the last Session, actually submitted to the Standing Finance Committee that the Government intended to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to the proposal for the removal of the institute from Pusa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, before the Standing Finance Committee or before this House gave its approval to the proposal, it is a fact that the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained and a notification was issued for the acquisition of about five to six thousand acres of land, about 12 miles from Delhi.

Sir, I will refer very briefly to the objections filed by those people whose lands are going to be taken away for the purpose of locating this institution in the neighbourhood of Delhi. My object is merely to show

how far the land which is going to be acquired is fit for the purpose. In a petition which was filed by the villagers to the authorities at Delhi, the petitioners stated as follows :

“ That the water of the wells in the village is extremely saltish and unpalatable for taste. Its drinking is not conducive to health and its use for agricultural purposes is sure to cause disappointment.

That the soil of the village is not fitted for the purpose for which village lands are being acquired. It is neither fertile nor productive. That it is wholly unsuited to an ideal farm is a matter which can little be disputed and can very well be tested by a scientific examination of the soil.

That the area of the village consists of low lands which, for most part of the year, specially during the rainy season, remains under water and are rendered unfit for cultivation.”

And so on. As against this statement, there is nothing on record to indicate what experiment has been made, what inquiry has been instituted and what report has been submitted to Government that the lands are quite suitable for the purpose for which they are sought to be acquired. A meeting of the Standing Finance Committee was held the other day, and I repeatedly asked the Department to produce any sort of written record in order to rebut those allegations, but I regret to say that no report has been forthcoming up to this moment. Sir, in this connection, I should also like to say that one of the petitioners wrote a letter to Mr. B. C. Burt, the Agricultural Expert at Pusa, in which they repeat the same allegations to which I have just made reference. He suggests this :

“ I would humbly suggest to you to do boring in a piece of land before starting farm work, otherwise the Government and the villagers of Tikri Kalan have to undergo a heavy loss.”

A largely attended public meeting was held of about 30 villages in which among others the following Resolution was passed :

“ Resolved that the Government expert and the district authorities must be challenged upon our past experience that the saltish water shall not be beneficial for the ideal farm for the Pusa Institute. Our boring wells are of no use at present. We offer the Government a piece of land free of charge, if the Government is inclined to make its own boring for this daylight truth.”

Hony. Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official) : May I interrupt the Honourable Member ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You will have your chance of stating your case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Order, order. The Honourable Member is not giving way.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, my second point is that it is proposed that this expenditure should be met out of loan funds. Sir, I strongly object to such experiments being carried on on borrowed capital. If Government have got sufficient money in their coffers, I do not object to the expenditure being incurred for beneficial proposals. But simply because money can be available at a cheap rate, that is no reason why Government should incur expenditure for schemes which have emanated as a brain wave from some officer of the Government of India. Sir, public opinion in Bihar may not count for much, because it may be supposed to be tinged with local patriotism, but I venture to submit that public opinion outside as reflected in the public Press has opposed this proposed transfer. I will only refer to the *Statesman*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and the

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

Forward of Calcutta, the Searchlight and the Indian Nation of my Province, the Leader of Allahabad, and many other papers. I will not refer to a manifesto which has been issued by the leading gentlemen of Bihar, consisting of all shades of public opinion, disapproving of this proposal. I will read out one little passage from the Times of India to which I have already made reference. In its issue of the 20th July, it states as follows in its leading article :

"In these days when it is so difficult to get even the smallest sum for beneficial State activities, it is right and proper that an estimated outlay of Rs. 36 lakhs for the transfer of this Institute should be very critically regarded. Estimates of cost, particularly when they are put up by those supporting a scheme, naturally tend to be conservative. It is an open question whether the sum of Rs. 36 lakhs would be the end of expenditure on the transfer suggested."

And it concludes its leading article in these words :

"The proper way to judge the plan is solely in relation to the great financial stringency of the moment, and the inability of Government to finance many a measure of social importance, let alone reduce the crushing burden of taxation their first duty. It would be interesting to have more details as to how the Rs. 36 lakhs estimate of the cost of the transfer has been compiled, and whether it has been proved that the capital outlay will be recouped in a reasonable time by savings effected through removal from Pusa. There would be a case for the transfer if that were demonstrated beyond a doubt, but unless and until it can be, the Assembly should turn down the plan."

Sir, I have not got all the newspapers which have condemned this scheme. I will just refer to a paper from Madras, the *Federated India*, which, in its issue, dated the 1st August, 1934, says :

"India will condemn with one voice the monstrous proposal to spend 40 lakhs of rupees on the erection of an Agricultural Research Institute at Delhi to take the place of the Institute that has been located all along at Pusa. When the estimated expenditure is 40 lakhs, we may expect the final expenditure to close at a few annas less than 50 lakhs. The question that has to be faced is whether, when the agriculturist is in need of practical relief in so many directions, money should be wasted on research in this lavish and light-hearted manner."

I understand, though I speak subject to correction, that the *Hindu* also condemned this scheme.

Sir, with regard to the attitude which my Honourable friends, the Members of the European Group, may take on this question, I will refer to the opinion of one or two indigo planters of my Province. I will first read out the opinion of Mr. C. Ivan Parr of Hursingpore Concern, Samastipur, in the district of Darbhanga. In a letter to the *Statesman*, which has been reproduced in the *Searchlight*, dated the 3rd August, 1934, he states as follows :

"It would be difficult to write better articles on the transfer of Pusa than your two very able leaders though I think it would be wise to publish these leaders again in large print and bring them before the public to again make them realise the iniquity of this waste of public funds at a time when economy should be the watchword on every occasion to bring about a more stable position in the world at large."

He has also characterised this proposal in the course of his letter, as "sinister". With regard to the estimate of cost he proceeds to observe :

"Their estimate, I believe, at present is Rs. 35 lakhs. I do not accept it and I am pretty sure if you double that figure you would be nearer the mark."

With regard to damage which has been done to the buildings at Pusa, the letter proceeds to observe as follows :

" I know Pusa very intimately, and apart from the college buildings, the damage is not so very great : the college in spite of heavy rains and subsequent severe shocks we had afterwards still stands very much as it was after the day of the big disaster ; and having been over it, though admittedly not an engineer, I should say it was quite capable of repairs and that the cost would not be so enormous."

Further on he states :

" Pusa is an agricultural institute or is by name : it is situated in an agricultural Province and possesses lands that are eminently adapted for experiments and for the improvement and more proficient cultivation of crops, and so on."

I shall now refer to the opinion of a very influential organisation in Bihar—I mean the Bihar Planters Association. Mr. Meyrick, the Secretary of this Association, consisting exclusively of European indigo planters, writes as follows : (*Vide the Statesman of the 28th instant*) :

" After the lakhs or crores that have been expended on Pusa during the last decade, and just when the past 30 years of experiments are now bearing fruit, all this public money and all this valuable work shall not be wiped out at a minute's notice, without giving each Province time to ponder and realize what their action means. For Pusa is now at a state when each year they are producing new kinds of wheat, barley, oats, paddy, linseeds, pulses of all varieties, jute, hybrids of hemp, sugar cane and many types of tobacco, all of which are definite benefits to the agriculturist."

A question has been asked whether the Institute has failed in its object. I am not competent to pronounce any opinion on that. If it has failed in its object, I think the brunt of responsibility must fall upon the Government, because after all they do not find fault as much with the climate of Pusa or with the soil of Pusa as with the comparative inaccessibility of the place : in other words, a few Government officials do not want to undertake the journey which will be involved in visiting that institution. Now, a writer in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* says, writing in 1922 :

" The Institute has within the comparatively short period of its existence done magnificent service to Indian agriculture by producing improved varieties of crops. In particular it has achieved remarkable success by evolving strains of wheat which give a high yield, of powers of resistance to rust, are able to mature with less water than the generality of Indian wheats and give good results under diverse conditions of soil and climate."

In the course of interpellations which took place in this House sometime back, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, told us that he will seriously consider the proposal of retaining the Botanical section at Pusa, because if the Institute is transferred to Delhi there would probably be no need for having a duplication of the Botanical Institute at Karnal. I do not know what exactly he meant by that. I am thankful for what little promise—or what little expectation—he has held out, but it is cold comfort to us. I am looking at this not so much from the provincial point of view, but from the point of view of the rate-payers' money which is involved in this question of transfer. The other day, I asked a question as to how much money has been sunk in Pusa. My Honourable friend objected—I probably gathered from his reply that he objected—to the word " sunk " ; but I find the same expression has been used in the official blue-book which has been supplied to us—where it says in the foot-note :

" Rather than sink more money in repairs on an inaccessible and ill-adapted place like Pusa, it is proposed to transfer the Institute to a site near Delhi."

[Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh.]

I would conclude my observations by making an appeal to Honourable Members of this House to consider this question very carefully before they allow their provincial patriotism to run away with their intellects. (Laughter.) I know I am placing a case to which serious consideration, in my opinion, has not been bestowed. I will make only one observation and it is this, if, in the interests of all-India, it is necessary to transfer the Institute from Pusa—and I am assuming it without admitting the proposition—I suggest that Local Governments should be addressed on the subject to find out the best place for the location of the Institute. They have made this proposal without consulting the Government of Bihar and Orissa, without consulting any Government at all, without recording the opinion of those experts who have advocated this transfer. In these days of financial stringency, is it worth while really to undertake this change ?

An Honourable Member : Now finish.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Shall I continue tomorrow, Sir ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member should perhaps finish now.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : When, on account of financial stringency, the five per cent cut on the salaries of Government servants has not yet been restored, when the increased income-tax rates introduced some time ago have not been brought down to their original level, is it, I ask, equitable on the part of the Government, at this stage of the Assembly, to undertake an experiment which, on their own showing, involves a capital expenditure of about Rs. 40 lakhs, and which may exceed in course of time the original estimate ? I, therefore, finally conclude my observations by asking the Government seriously to consider this proposal and to keep this thing waiting for a few months, in which interval they should obtain the opinion of the Local Governments and other experts, and bring this proposal up for discussion and decision in the January Session of this House. (Cheers.)

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 31st August, 1934.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 31st August, 1934.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.
Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shannukham Chetty) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF POSTAL DELIVERIES IN CAWNPORE CITY.

957. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla** : (a) Will Government please state if they have received any representation from the commercial community of Cawnpore regarding the reduction in the number of postal deliveries in the city ?

(b) Are Government aware that the reduction has caused great inconvenience and loss to the local business community ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they are now prepared to revert to the old system of postal deliveries ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A representation on the subject signed by some members of the commercial community of Cawnpore has been received by the Director-General on the 20th August, 1934.

(b) and (c). The matter is one within the competence of the Postmaster-General, United Provinces, and a copy of the question and the answer will be sent to him.

STOPPAGE OF UP MAIL TRAIN AT KHURJA JUNCTION.

958. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla** : (a) Is it a fact that Khurja Junction is a very important station both from the point of view of passenger traffic and of goods ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is no train for Delhi stopping at Khurja Junction between the hours of 5 P.M. and 6 A.M., which causes great inconvenience to the passengers especially the people of the business community ?

(c) Are Government prepared to arrange the stoppage of 1 Up Mail at Khurja Junction at least for two minutes ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) This is a matter of opinion. I can think of many stations on the East Indian Railway of much greater importance.

(b) Although there is no train leaving Khurja for Delhi between 6 P.M. on one day and 5 A.M. on the following day there are five trains between 5 A.M. and 6 P.M.

(c) I will communicate the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration.

(2409)

FILING OF SUITS AGAINST RULING PRINCES.

959. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra** : (a) Is it not a fact that under the Civil Procedure Code a certificate or permission is necessary for filing a suit against the ruling princes, etc. ?

(b) Will Government please state whether the certificate will henceforth be given by the Government of India, on account of their transfer to the Government of India, or by the Local Governments as before ?

(c) Is it not a fact that a list has been issued by ruling chiefs against whom no suit can be brought without a proper certificate ?

(d) Will Government please state whether if the powers of the Local Governments are withdrawn, it will be necessary to issue a fresh list by the Government of India ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : (a) Yes.

(b) By the Government of India.

(c) No.

(d) The question does not arise.

SITTING OF SWEEPERS ON THE BENCHES OF THE TRAM CARS IN DELHI.

960. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter of Mr. Ayodhya Prasad Pathak (Delhi), published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 16th August, 1934, in which it is stated on his own evidence that two sweepers were not allowed to sit on the benches of the tram car in Delhi by the conductor, on the ground that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company has a rule to that effect, although the people in the tram car were willing to let the sweepers sit ? Is there any such rule ; and if so, why is it not abrogated ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Government have seen the letter published in the *Hindustan Times* to which the Honourable Member refers. The Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company has no rule forbidding *Harijans* from sitting on the seats of their trams.

EDITING AND PUBLISHING OF THE KANNADA INSCRIPTIONS.

961. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil** : (a) Are Government aware that they assured this House, about seven years ago, in reply to the questions of the then Honourable Member, Mr. D. V. Belvi of Karnatak that the whole work of surveying, collecting, editing and publishing the Kannada inscriptions in the presidencies of Bombay and Madras would be finished within about thirteen years ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) how many taluks have been surveyed during these seven years ;

(ii) how many still await surveying ;

(iii) whether these unsurveyed parts can be finished within the next six years ; if not, whether Government propose to take steps in order to complete the whole work of surveying, collecting, editing and publishing the Kannada inscriptions

within the next six years as per their assurances ; if so, what ?

(c) How many inscriptions have been collected uptil now ?

(d) Have they all been published ? If not, what arrangements do Government intend to make for the early publication of the same ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Government are not aware of any such assurance, but they informed the President, Karnatak Historical Association, by letter in September, 1927, that they expected that the task of copying the Kanarese inscriptions in the Bombay Presidency would be completed in about thirteen years.

(b) (i) 12.

(ii) 40.

(iii) The work is not likely to be completed within the next six years owing to the drastic retrenchment on grounds of economy in the staff of the Epigraphical Branch. For the same reason the rate of progress cannot at present be materially accelerated.

(c) 1345 inscriptions have so far been collected since the search for Kanarese inscriptions in the Bombay Karnatak started.

(d) Inscriptions copied during the years 1926-27 to 1930-31 have been published. Lists of collections of 1931-32 and 1932-33 are in the Press, and inscriptions copied during the year 1933-34 are being transcribed and listed.

EDITING AND PUBLISHING OF THE KANNADA INSCRIPTIONS.

962. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** Are Government prepared now to reconsider the advisability of creating temporarily a separate Epigraphical circle for Karnatak at Dharwar for speeding up the work of Kannada Inscriptions, as per representations made to the Director General of Archaeology several times by the Karnatak Historical Research Society of Dharwar and individuals ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to part b (iii) of the preceding question.

FORMATION OF A SEPARATE KARNATAK PROVINCE.

963. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a memorial was submitted to His Excellency the Governor General and Viceroy of India by the central Karnatak Unification League in the month of April, 1934 ?

(b) If so, has the memorial been already considered ; if not when is it likely to be considered ?

(c) Are Government prepared to appoint a committee of Enquiry at least to test the genuineness of the demand of the Karnatak subjects of His Majesty and also to consider whether Karnatak if constituted as an independent administrative unit, would be financially self-supporting ?

(d) If the finances of the Government of India do not permit today the appointment of a committee of Enquiry are Government prepared to receive contributions from individuals, associations and Local bodies on

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS HELD FOR ADMISSION TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many of them belong to Maharashtra, Karnatak and Madras ?

(b), (c) and (d). A statement giving the information desired by the Honorable Member is laid on the table.

Number of Candidates admitted into the Indian Military Academy through the Examinations.

(i) By Provinces.

Punjab	..	..	..	..	..	44
United Provinces	..	..	..	..	..	10
North-West Frontier Province	..	..	..	..	..	5
Delhi	..	..	..	..	..	4
Kashmir	..	..	..	..	..	3
Punjab States	..	..	..	..	..	2
Mysore	..	..	..	..	..	1
Jaipur	..	..	..	..	..	1
Jodhpur	..	..	..	..	..	1
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	1
Coorg	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rajputana	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bombay	..	..	..	..	..	1
Burma	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bhopal	..	..	..	..	..	1
Central Provinces	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hyderabad	..	..	..	..	..	1
					Total	79

(ii) By Communities.

• Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	..	26
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	14
Hindus	..	..	..	..	..	29
Indian Christians	..	..	..	..	..	4
Parsis	..	..	..	..	..	1
Anglo-Indians	..	..	..	..	..	3
Domiciled Europeans	..	..	..	..	..	2
				Total	..	79

Mr. S. G. Jog : May I know if the sense of discrimination is also lurking in the selection of candidates by the Selection Committee, because nobody from the Bombay Presidency, and, so far as I know, nobody from the Madras Presidency, nobody from Bengal, and.....

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : And nobody from Bihar.

Mr. S. G. Jog : and nobody from Bihar, and nobody from other Provinces have been selected ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The figures that I have given in my statement include one candidate from Madras, one from Coorg, and one from Bombay.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state how many candidates were taken from Bihar ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid there is no candidate from Bihar in the list before me.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member from what part of Bombay the candidate from Bombay was selected ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am afraid I have not got that information.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : Does not the Honourable Member know that Coorg does not form part of the Madras Presidency, but it is directly under the Government of India ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I was aware of that fact.

MARKS ALLOTTED FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW AT THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION OF THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

965. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** (a) Is it a fact that out of the total number of 2,150 marks, as many as 500 are set apart for personal interview of the candidates appearing for the entrance examination of the Indian Military Academy ?

(b) If so, are these marks assigned solely for the so-called qualification of belonging to a martial community of India ? If not, how many marks are assigned for it ?

(c) On what matters is the candidate expected to satisfy the Selection Board at the time of the personal interview ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) Yes.

(b) No. The second question accordingly does not arise.

(c) The criteria by which a candidate can be adjudged suitable or unsuitable for a commission by the Interview and Record Board are so many that it is impossible to enumerate them. At the time of the interview, the Board have the record of each candidate before them. All that is required of the candidate is to furnish such additional information as the Board may require and to reply to such questions as they may ask relating to various topics, mainly concerning the Army.

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : May I ask whether the Indian Military College Committee did not recommend anything of the sort of martial race ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The question of soldierly tradition undoubtedly would be weighed by the Interview and Record Board, but it is not the sole guiding factor by any means.

Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil : May I ask whether it is only the outside activities of the particular candidate that the Board of Examiners should look into ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I think it may be said that the Board takes into consideration every kind of feature and characteristic in the candidate which may be suited to a military career.

Mr. S. G. Jog : Do they give any special preference to those classes which belong to the so-called martial classes, and they do not do the same in respect of non-martial classes ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I have not been on the Board myself, but there is certainly no prejudice against those who have no soldierly tradition if in other respects they appear to the Board suitable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Are there any subjects laid down for these personal tests ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : None.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SELECTION BOARD TO INTERVIEW THE CANDIDATES FOR THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

966. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** Will Government be pleased to state what is the constitution of the Selection Board for the interview of the candidates for the Indian Military Academy ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Board is constituted as follows :

Chairman.—A member of the Public Service Commission.

Members.—Two military officers, one a Major-General, the other an officer not below the rank of Colonel.

Two non-official members, one with military experience.

ADMISSIONS TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND MARTIAL COMMUNITIES.

967. ***Rao Bahadur B. L. Patil :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the result of the admissions so far made to the Indian Military Academy shows fairly sufficient number of candidates from all the provinces in India ?

(b) Do Government recognise the fact of belonging to a martial community as a qualification in the matter of admission to the Indian Military Academy ?

(c) If so, what is the test for determining a community as martial ? Have Government made enquiries in all the provinces as to what communities are martial ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement I have just laid on the table in reply to his question No. 964.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the supplementary questions and answers given on the 11th December, 1933, to starred question No. 1384. No inquiries have been made from provinces.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Is it a fact that the Province of Bihar and Orissa has not got any candidate up till now admitted into the Indian Military Academy ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I believe so, but we are still looking forward to some. (Laughter.)

REPLACEMENT OF UNQUALIFIED CLERKS BY QUALIFIED ONES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

968. **Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur :** (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that there are at present employed in the Government of India Secretariat and the attached offices a large number of non-Muslim temporary routine clerks who have not passed the necessary examination of the Public Service Commission ?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of such temporary clerks are being allowed to continue in service for several years, some of whom are in service since 1930 ?

(c) Is it a fact that some of these temporary clerks are employed in provisionally permanent posts, semi-permanent posts or temporary posts of long duration ?

(d) Is it a fact that these clerks cannot, under rules, be absorbed permanently and will therefore have to go sooner or later ?

(e) Is it a fact that a large number of Muslims who have qualified at the examinations held by the Public Service Commission in 1932 and 1933 have not been able to get appointments in the Government of India and the attached offices ?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of replacing unqualified non-Muslims by qualified Muslims, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a), (b) and (c). There are a number of unqualified men of all communities at present temporarily employed, in some cases since before 1930 and in some cases against permanent vacancies.

(d) Yes ; that is to say, they can only secure permanent employment through the competitive examination.

(e) Vacancies are filled on the results of a competitive examination and this ordinarily means that no question of a qualifying mark arises. But

in accordance with the instructions in clause IX of paragraph 1 of the Home Department Office Memorandum No. F. 452-27-Ests., dated the 8th December, 1928, a copy of which is in the Library, the Public Service Commission supply each of the Government of India Offices with a list of candidates who did not obtain places in the last preceding examination, but whom the Commission consider suitable for temporary employment. I may mention, however, that under the clause referred to, Departments have discretion to appoint candidates who are not on the list.

(f) The question of replacing unqualified persons by others recommended by the Public Service Commission is under consideration.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do I understand that there are unqualified Muslim clerks also appointed in the Government of India Secretariat offices ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I said that there are a number of unqualified men of all communities at present temporarily employed.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it the intention of the Government of India to scrap all these unqualified men whether they belong to Muslim or non-Muslim communities ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : They can only secure permanent employment by means of the competitive examination. They can only be on a temporary basis until they pass that examination.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is it a fact that at any time these men can be employed permanently without the examination of the Public Service Commission ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : They cannot be made permanent except as a result of the Public Service Commission examination.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : What is the definition of qualification ? Does it mean efficiency of work or passing certain examination ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You must ask the gentleman who put the question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : It means passing the Public Service Commission examination.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Without regard to efficiency ?

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF COMPOSITORS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES, SIMLA AND NEW DELHI.

969. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) Is it a fact that for want of work in the Government of India Presses at Simla and New Delhi, the number of compositors, etc., are reduced every year ?

(b) Is printing for Government done at private presses also at these places ? If so, to what extent and why ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) No.

(b) Yes, to a very small extent. Such printing is confined chiefly to vernacular work for which the Government of India Presses at Simla and Delhi are not equipped. Work in English is also on rare occasions, entrusted to private presses for administrative convenience.

PRINTING OF THE *Fauji Akhbar*.

970. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : (a) Is the *Fauji Akhbar* a Government paper ? If so, why do Government run it ?

(b) How does the *Fauji Akhbar* differ from private papers ?

(c) In what languages is the *Fauji Akhbar* printed and why ?

(d) Can Indian soldiers generally read Roman Urdu ? If so, why is not the *Fauji Akhbar* printed in Roman Urdu only ?

(e) Why is the *Fauji Akhbar* printed in Simla ?

(f) What will be the cost of printing it in a private press at Delhi or Lahore ?

(g) For whom is the *Fauji Akhbar* intended and what is their number ?

(h) How many copies of the *Fauji Akhbar* are printed ?

(i) What is the annual cost of (i) editing, and (ii) printing the *Fauji Akhbar* and what is its annual income ?

(j) What will be the annual cost of printing it in Roman Urdu in the Government of India Press ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. B. Lumby : (a) Yes. In order to provide Indian troops and ex-soldiers and the agricultural classes from which they are drawn with reliable news, at a price within their means, regarding world and Indian events, the results of the latest scientific experiments in agriculture, the measures necessary for the improvement of rural conditions, the organization, activities and movements of the Army, the movements of officers touring the districts ; and any matters which it is to the advantage of the military community to know.

(b) It caters solely for the military community and is written in a simple style suitable for that community.

(c) Urdu, Hindi, Gurmukhi and English. The first three are the languages spoken by the great majority of the military community. The English edition is published mainly for the purpose of enabling British officers of the Indian Army to acquaint themselves with the contents of the paper which their men are reading.

(d) Although the majority of serving Indian soldiers can read Roman-Urdu, there are still many who cannot do so with sufficient fluency to enable them to digest the contents of a newspaper. Approximately, half of the recipients of the *Fauji Akhbar* are ex-soldiers, the majority of whom have not reached a high enough standard in Roman-Urdu to enable them to read with ease a newspaper so printed.

(e) It is essential that the editorial staff should be in close contact with the Army Headquarters and it has been considered convenient hitherto for the paper to be printed in the same place as that in which the editorial staff is located throughout the year.

(f) Tenders for printing by private presses in Delhi and Lahore have been received and are under consideration.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer to part (a). I regret that it is not possible to estimate the number of persons for whom the paper is intended.

(h) During the financial year 1933-34 the weekly average was 10,351.

(i) Figures for the same period are as follows :

(i) The pay of the Translation Section of the Army Headquarters which carries out the editing, managerial and translation duties connected with the *Fauji Akhbar*, as well as the general translation work of Army Headquarters, and of the officer in charge thereof who is the editor of the paper amounted to Rs. 42,838, but it is difficult to say what proportion of this sum related to the *Fauji Akhbar*.

(ii) Rs. 29,158 for printing and wrapping and Rs. 16,693 for paper, blocks, postage, remuneration to contributors and office contingencies. The income was Rs. 35,944. It may be added that it was never the intention that this paper should be a commercial proposition. Numerous copies are distributed free in order to ensure the objects mentioned in my answer to part (a).

(j) It is not possible to furnish an estimate of cost of printing the *Fauji Akhbar* in Roman-Urdu in a Government Press. It is not desirable to print it in such a Press, as the printing of a newspaper, involving work at night and unusual hours, would dislocate and interfere with urgent Government work, such as that connected with the Legislature.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : May I know why such an important paper is not published in the Southern Indian vernaculars ?

Some Honourable Members : There are no military classes there.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is this a monthly magazine, and, if so, what is the difficulty in getting it printed at Lahore or Delhi if the rate is cheaper ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : It is a weekly paper. As I said, tenders have been received from private presses in Delhi and Lahore and are now under consideration.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Would it not be better to publish the *Fauji Akhbar* in the Army Press ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I understand that a tender has been received from the Army Press and is under consideration.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The Honourable Member has used the expression " martial community ". May I know what is meant by martial community ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The community which consists of soldiers and ex-soldiers.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : In connection with the answer to part (e), is it a fact that the paper was published in Lahore previously. In 1919, there was some trouble and then the paper was brought to Simla.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The paper used to be printed in Lahore. I am not aware of the reasons which led to the change, but I think

the most important one was the desirability of having the paper printed as near as possible to the editorial staff who must be close to Army Headquarters.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : The Honourable Member has not replied to my question why the paper is not published in the vernaculars of Southern India.

Bhai Parma Nand : May I know if, in considering the question of tenders for the printing of this paper, the point of economy will be given consideration, if the Government can save about Rs. 7,000 and the paper can be printed of the same quality and with the same convenience at another place.

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : The Government always consider in matters like this whether the most economical is also the most suitable way.

Captain Sher Muhammad Khan Gakhar : Are Government aware that the educational standard of Indian soldiers has advanced after the Great War and that it is desirable that the size of the paper should be increased ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I will certainly bring that point to the notice of the authorities concerned at Army Headquarters.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Do Government propose to consider the question of why the paper was transferred from Lahore to Simla at the time of coming to a decision on the different tenders ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am quite certain that all relevant considerations will be taken into account in deciding which tender to accept.

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahib Bahadur : When this paper was being published in Lahore, is it a fact that the cost of printing was more than 75 per cent. of what it is now ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : "I have not got the figures with me.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : May I take it that this paper is not a commercial proposition, and if the printing of the paper is economically done in Lahore, will Government take that point into very serious consideration ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : As I have said, all relevant considerations will be borne in mind when deciding which tender to accept.

Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal : My point is, if the tenders from Lahore are much cheaper than the cost of printing the paper in Simla, would Government consider printing the paper in Lahore ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : I am not prepared to say what any of the tenders are.

PROMOTION OF SUBORDINATES OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

971. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) Will Government please state the number of posts of Auditors and Assistant Auditors on the (i) Great Indian Peninsula, (ii) East Indian, and (iii) Burma Railways, respectively, before they were taken over by the State ? How many of them were filled by direct recruits ?

(b) What was the procedure followed in promoting the subordinates of the Audit Department of these Railways to the Superior Service ? What was the proportion of recruitment by direct appointment and by promotion ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Superior Service on these Railways corresponded with the State Railway Accounts Service introduced on the State Railways ?

(d) Is it not a fact that there was no Lower Gazetted Service, as now obtaining on these Railways ?

(e) Is it not a fact that the subordinates of these railways get promotion only to the Lower Gazetted Service now, which service was not in existence before these Railways were taken over ?

(f) Is it not a fact that after separation of the Accounts from Audit after these Railways were taken over, most of the posts are held either by the members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and State Railway Accounts Service ?

(g) Will Government please state how the vacancies in the Accounts and Audit Departments of these three Railways have been distributed, viz., (i) to the members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, (ii) to the State Railway Accounts Service, and (iii) Lower Gazetted Service officers ?

(h) Is it not a fact that the members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service have gained most after the taking over of the Railways and the separation ? Is it not a fact that they are now holding posts in the Railway Accounts as well as the Audit Departments of the State Railways ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

972. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) How many posts of Assistant Accounts Officers are there on the State Railways and how are these posts filled up ?

(b) Is it not a fact that a number of the Assistant Accounts Officers, as well as Senior Accountants from the list of the Director of Railway Audit, have been transferred to the Railway Accounts Department ?

(c) Is it not a fact that by doing so, the prospects for promotion of those who were on the Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian and Burma Railways before they were taken over by the State and those who were appointed locally later on, have been jeopardised ?

(d) Is it not a fact that officers of the Lower Gazetted Service cannot expect any officiating promotion to the State Railway Accounts Service though there is no leave reserve for the latter ?

(e) Is it not a fact that as a rule the members of the Lower Gazetted Service are not getting any promotion to the Railway Accounts Service ?

(f) Is it not a fact that whenever there is any vacancy in the Railway Accounts Service, the post is filled up either by fresh recruitment or by members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service ?

(g). Is it not a fact that by filling up all the higher posts by the members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service as well as Railway Accounts Service, the Senior Accountants and Assistant Accounts Officers have no prospect of promotion ?

(h) Is it not a fact that the Second Report of the Pope Committee under "Accounting as an aid to efficiency" criticised the present system severely ?

(i) Are Government prepared to promote a certain number of subordinates as well as Assistant Accounts Officers to the Superior Railway Accounts Service instead of filling up these posts by the members of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and recruitment to the Railway Accounts Service ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) There are 25 posts of Assistant Accounts Officers. They are ordinarily filled by promotion from amongst the Accountants and Inspectors of the Accounts Department qualified for promotion as Assistant Accounts Officers.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is a matter of opinion.

(d) Yes.

(e) (f) and (g) No. A certain proportion of vacancies in the Indian Railway Accounts Service is intended to be filled by promotion.

(h) The report mentioned does not deal with the question of the promotion of Assistant Accounts Officers to the Railway Accounts Service.

(i) Promotions of subordinates to the proportion prescribed will be considered when vacancies arise.

PROMOTIONS OF SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS AND ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

973. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury :** (a) Will Government please state the criterion which is followed in promoting Senior Accountants and Assistant Accounts Officers to the rank of Assistant Account Officers and Accounts Officers respectively ? Is it done strictly in accordance with seniority ?

(b) Will Government please state the number of Senior Accountants on the State Railways awaiting promotion ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Promotion in the Railway Accounts Department is, at every stage, based on merit with due regard to seniority.

(b) There are 70 permanent senior Accountants in the Railway Accounts Department.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

974. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Is it a fact that some of the clerks who have been doing the duties of assistants for the last three or four years, submitted representations to the Director General of Posts and

Telegraphs in the months of May and June, 1933, praying for the grant to them of higher pay, but no reply either in the affirmative or in the negative has yet been received by them ?

(b) Will Government please state whether any extra remuneration is granted to the clerks ? If not, why not ?

(c) Is it also a fact that whenever a vacancy, either permanent or temporary, in the Superintendent's grade in the said office occurs, the senior-most assistant in the office is allowed officiating promotion in that vacancy but no officiating promotion is allowed to a clerk in the vacancy caused by the promotion of the senior-most assistant to the Superintendent's grade, although the clerk is forced to carry on the duties of the assistant who is promoted to the Superintendent's grade ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to state the reasons for this differential treatment ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of such clerks at present ?

(f) Do Government propose to regularise the matter by classifying the charges between clerks Class II, III and I ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) It is a fact that certain clerks of the Director General's office asked for higher pay on the ground that they were performing the duties of assistants. The representations were examined and rejected, as it was found that the men were not in fact doing work of a standard expected of assistants. In this connection, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to Sir Hubert Sams' reply to the second part of Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim's starred question No. 429 on February 11th, 1931.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

(c) The facts, as stated by the Honourable Member, are substantially correct except that no clerk is forced to carry out the duties of the assistant who is promoted to the Superintendent's grade ; those duties are distributed among the other assistants.

(d) At present there are a large number of posts of assistants which are surplus to the sanctioned strength and any vacancy in such posts is accordingly filled by recruitment of qualified clerks in the third division.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c).

(f) This will be done in due course.

ADVANCES MADE TO THE BAHAWALPUR STATE.

975. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri** (a) Will Government please state the amounts of advances made to the Bahawalpur State and the dates on which they were made ?

(b) Will Government please state the dates on which the sanction of the Secretary of State was obtained in respect of each advance ?

(c) Is it a fact that the original sanction of the Secretary of State was only for Rs. two crores and that later advances, amounting to many crores, were made to the State without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, who was responsible for making the advances without the sanction of the Secretary of State, the Political Department or the Finance Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 975 to 977 together.

In September, 1926, the Secretary of State sanctioned a loan of Rs. 4,27 lakhs. In November, 1931, he agreed to the maximum being increased to Rs. 11½ crores, and in September, 1933, he sanctioned a further increase up to Rs. 12½ crores. Instalments of the loan have been advanced at various times in accordance with the requirements of the Project. The total amount outstanding at the end of the financial year 1933-34 was approximately Rs. 12½ crores. Of this amount about Rs. 9¼ crores represents principal and Rs. 2½ crores interest.

As regards the administration and financial prospects of the Bahawalpur section of the Sutlej Valley Project I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (c) of question No. 1387 asked by Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar on the 12th of December, 1933. The administrative arrangements have not changed, but the financial results for 1933-34 have proved to be more satisfactory than were then anticipated. The net receipts during the year amounted to about Rs. 48 lakhs and the ordinary expenditure was less than Rs. 40 lakhs, leaving a surplus of slightly over Rs. eight lakhs which has been utilised in reduction of the debt.

ADVANCES MADE TO THE BAHAWALPUR STATE.

†976. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) What is the total amount of advances made so far to the Bahawalpur State and what is the amount of interest which has accrued so far on these advances ?

(b) Have the Bahawalpur State made any payments towards the repayment of the capital or the interest ?

INCOME OF THE SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

†977. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** What is the total income of the Sutlej Valley Project, the officer-in-charge of which is directly responsible to the Government of India, and what is the annual expenditure on the Project ?

DELAY IN MAKING FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE BAHAWALPUR LOAN.

978. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the continued delay in making funding arrangements of the Bahawalpur loan ? At whose instance are the making of funding arrangements being delayed, the Political Department or the Finance Department ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the period within which they propose to make definite and final funding arrangements of this loan ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 975.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement made in this House by my predecessor on the 29th of March, 1934. I have nothing to add to the explanations which he then gave.

REFUNDS OF RENT IN RESPECT OF QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI FOR OVERLAPPING PERIODS BEFORE AND AFTER THE WINTER SEASON.

979. ***U Ba Maung :** (a) Is it a fact that the Simla house rent allowance is granted to the staff of the Government of India Secretariat in lieu of free house accommodation in Simla ? If not, for what purpose is it granted ?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of Government quarters in Simla is less than the number of men entitled to Simla House Rent Allowance ?

(c) Are Government aware that private houses in Simla are rented for the whole year ? If so, in what respects is the position of men occupying Government quarters in Simla different from that of those granted Simla House Rent Allowance, so far as the occupation of Government quarters in Delhi is concerned ?

(d) Is it a fact that the migratory clerks of the Government of India, who are entitled to the Simla House Rent Allowance, and occupied Government quarters in Simla, have been allowed refunds of the rent recovered from them since 1st October, 1931, and in future will not have to pay any rent in respect of quarters in New Delhi for short overlapping periods before and after the winter season ?

(e) Is it a fact that the migratory clerks, who are entitled to the Simla House Rent Allowance, but are not allotted Government quarters in Simla, have not been allowed the concession referred to in part (d) above ? If so, why ?

(f) Are Government aware that on account of the very high rent for private houses in Simla, most of the clerks referred to in part (e) above, have invariably to be out of pocket ?

(g) Are Government aware that clerks who are not allotted Government quarters in Simla, have to pay for their residential accommodation in Simla for the whole year and also for their actual stay at Delhi during the winter season ?

(h) If the answer to part (g) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to reconsider their decision so as to accord them the concession referred to in part (d) above ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Simla house-rent allowance is granted under the three following schemes :

- (i) As a fixed sum payable in cash whether the recipient occupies Government accommodation or not, when Government accommodation is occupied the full standard rent is payable ;
- (ii) As a sum payable in cash only when Government accommodation is not available, and up to the actual amount of rent paid for private accommodation, when Government accommodation is available, it is occupied rent free ;

- (iii) As a fixed sum payable in cash only when Government accommodation is not available. When Government accommodation is allotted, no allowance is drawn and rent is paid in the ordinary way.

The scheme applicable depends on the date when a particular official joined the service.

(b) I have not thought it worth while to ascertain the actual number of men at present entitled to Simla house-rent allowance. The applications for quarters indicate that demand exceeds supply only in respect of married orthodox clerks' quarters. In the other quarters supply exceeds demand.

(c) I understand that private houses in Simla are ordinarily let for the whole year, but, I believe that in some cases they are let for the season. The position of a man occupying private accommodation in Simla differs from that of a man occupying Government accommodation in Simla in that he cannot be a tenant of the Government all the year round.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. The intention of the rule is that an official occupying Government accommodation all the year round should not be charged more than 12 months' rent. The concession could not be allowed to persons occupying private accommodation for a part of the year without very elaborate enquiries which would clearly not be justified.

(f) No. I would point out that of 569 recent applicants for married orthodox clerks' quarters in Simla, 355 stated that they would prefer not to occupy the quarters. The inference is that the advantages of occupying Government accommodation are not great.

(g) Yes, if the accommodation in Simla is taken for the whole year.

(h) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : With regard to clause (c), the Honourable Member stated that sometimes the quarters are let for the season.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : For the season ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : For the season. With regard to that, if there is any suspicion on the part of the Government on the point of people getting the advantage of the quarters being let for the season only, why cannot the Government call upon the people concerned to furnish a certificate that they have been paying for the whole year ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Sir, I am afraid my reply to this question has been a very long one, and it is not unnatural, therefore, that my Honourable friend should have misunderstood the position. (Laughter). The reply to part (c) was :

" I understand that private houses in Simla are ordinarily let for the whole year, but I believe that in some cases they are let for the season ", etc.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : With regard to private houses, why is it not the case that, if the Government think that they are not let for the whole year and that sometimes they are let for the season only, they do not call upon them to furnish a certificate saying that they have paid rent for the whole season ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Sir, it is extraordinarily difficult to explain the position in regard to these questions of house rent on the floor of the House ; but Government are in no way concerned with the arrangements that the clerks may make for private accommodation. That is not their concern. They are only concerned with Government quarters.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know that these persons residing here in Government quarters, when they go to Delhi, are charged rent for five months there, because they are charged rent here for seven months, whereas those who take on rent private houses here are charged for six months or even more in Delhi. Now, why should that be so ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I may say that that point is engaging our attention.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Thank you.

DEVELOPMENT OF SALT MANUFACTURE IN THE COASTAL DISTRICTS OF ORISSA.

980. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) What steps have been taken by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to develop salt manufacture in the coastal districts of Orissa ?

(b) What measures do Government propose to take to exploit the natural advantages for manufacturing salt in Orissa ?

(c) What is the annual share of the Government of Bihar and Orissa towards additional salt duty ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the difficulties experienced, if any, by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to develop salt manufacture in Orissa coastal districts ?

(e) What is the share of the Bihar and Orissa province this year in additional salt duty, and when is the Bihar and Orissa Government likely to receive the amount from the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (d). The required information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) The share of the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the additional import duty in the last three years was :

	Rs.
1931-32	2,83,500
1932-33	3,19,200
1933-34	1,11,900

(e) It is not possible to say at present what the Local Government's share will be for the current year. Distribution is normally made at the end of each half year.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra : May I know from the Honourable Member as to how it is that while as far back as the 20th April, 1934, the Honourable Member's predecessor, Sir George Schuster, replied to my question No. 786, thus :

" The information is being obtained, and will be laid on the table in due course "

and the Honourable Member is even now giving the same answer to a similar question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am sorry I did not hear the Honourable Member's question. It had something to do with my predecessor, but beyond that I did not get.

Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra : Sir, on the 20th April, 1934. I put a question, No. 786. to which Sir George Schuster replied :

“ The information is being obtained, and will be laid on the table in due course ”,

Now, that reply was exactly the same as the Honourable Member gives today !

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am glad that in this matter at any rate there is complete concurrence between myself and my predecessor. (Laughter.)

INSPECTION OF INCOME-TAX ASSESSMENT FILES BY THE ASSESSEES.

981. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to embody instructions in the Income-tax Manual permitting the assessee's free inspection of their own assessment file, similar to those issued regarding the supply of copies of assessment orders ?

(b) Is it a fact that petitions as distinguished from requests by assessee's to inspect their own assessment files have always been bluntly rejected in Bihar and Orissa ?

(c) Are not notices, intimating dates of hearing, sent to the parties by the Civil Courts in addition to the practice of hanging up the daily cause list ? If so, why is this facility denied to the Income-tax payers ?

(d) Are Government aware that the withholding of the daily cause list often causes serious inconvenience to the assessee's and at times results in summary assessment ?

(e) Has the attention of Government been drawn to such abuse of power in Bihar and Orissa as has been exposed in two recent decisions of the Nagpur Income-tax Commissioner's Court, repeated in A. I. R. 34 Nagpur, pages 175 and 183 ? If so, how do Government propose to stop such abuse of power ?

(f) Will Government please state if there is any form prescribed under Rule 21 for appeal against order under section 25 (a) and appeal under section 55 (a) ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course. (Laughter.)

COOLIES WORKING IN TEA GARDENS AT CERTAIN PLACES.

982. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of coolies working in the tea gardens of (i) Assam, (ii) Dooars, (iii) Darjeeling including Terai, (iv) Tipperah, and (v) Southern India ?

(b) What is the number of coolies in these tea gardens from the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Orissa, including Feudatory States, Singbhum and Santal Purgannahs ?

(c) Are there any clerks, supervisors, doctors and teachers in the tea gardens coming from the districts whence the coolies are recruited ?

(d) What is the number of the children of school-going age of the workers in the tea gardens and what percentage of those children are given primary and secondary education in the tea gardens or in the tea districts ? If any of them is given secondary education, do the tea gardens, where such a boy is educated, give any employment to him befitting his education ?

(e) Is it a fact that education imparted to the children of the coolies from Orissa in the tea gardens in Assam, is in Assamese language ?

(f) Is it a fact that a boy of a cooly from Orissa, educated in Assamese language, finds himself a stranger and illiterate amidst his own people on his return to Orissa ? If so, do Government propose to take any steps to remedy this evil ?

(g) Is it a fact that the tea planters, with the help of the Assam Government, are attempting to Assamize the Oriya labourers by giving them Assamese education ?

(h) Are Government aware that there is a set of rules maintained by the planters of Assam, known as the "Labour Rules", guiding the procedure for planters with regard to wages and civil contracts, restricting one planter from paying higher wages than the rest of his neighbouring gardens, to keep down higher rate of wage ?

(i) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of such rules on the table ?

(j) Is it a fact that the tea gardens prefer recruiting coolies in families to single male adults, however strong they may be ? If so, what is the reason ?

(k) Do Government propose to enforce the planters to appoint in the tea gardens clerks, doctors, and supervisors, from the district of the coolies, so that the coolies could talk to one of the officials at least in a tea garden in his own language while seeking redress on any difficulty or need ?

(l) Do Government contemplate engaging Indian Labour Inspectors in the tea districts to inspect the labour conditions, instead of the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the tea districts, and to recruit such Indian officers only from the recruiting districts of the coolies to enable them better to understand their needs and difficulties and to suggest to the Government of the province from which the coolies are recruited, measures for their improvement ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : With your permission, Sir, I will deal with questions Nos. 982 to 985 together.

I have called for certain information from the Controller of Emigrant Labour and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

FEE CHARGED FOR EACH COOLY RECRUITED TO THE ASSAM TEA GARDENS.

† 983. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) What fee do Government charge for each cooly recruited to the Assam tea gardens ?

(b) Is it a fact that the cost of recruitment is recovered from the wages of the cooly in the tea garden of Assam and, before such time as he has not paid back the amount, he cannot leave the tea garden ?

MONETARY VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE ORIYA COOLIES IN ASSAM.

† 984. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) What is the monetary value of the properties acquired by the coolies in Assam from Orissa who have stayed there for more than ten years ?

(b) Do the Oriya coolies in the tea gardens ever send money to their homes and relations in the province from which they are recruited through the Post Office ? If so, what amount was sent by them since 1930 ?

(c) Are Government aware that coolies in the tea gardens are not given railway fare to go back to their country after any number of years of work in the garden, if the cooly desired to return to his province ?

RECRUITMENT OF COOLIES IN TEA GARDENS.

† 985. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** (a) Do Government propose to take steps so that the tea gardeners may recruit, along with coolies, such men as may be teachers to the coolies in their own language ?

(b) Are Government aware that if an intending worker, seeking to go to the tea gardens, looks a bit smart and intelligent, he is not recruited by the Agent for the tea gardens ? If so, what is the reason ?

(c) Are Government aware that only aboriginals are judged fit by the tea planters for recruitment to the tea gardens as workers ?

PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS OF COOLIES IN THE TEA GARDENS OF ASSAM.

986. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** What is the percentage of deaths of coolies in the tea gardens of Assam during the last year in comparison with the death rate in the Madras jails ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The death rate per *mille* among the labour population in the tea gardens of Assam during the year ending the 30th June, 1933, was 20.49. The death rate in the Madras Jails during 1932 was 7.25. In case, however, the Honourable Member would prefer to compare like with like, I would point out that the general death rate during 1932 was 18.96 in Assam, 21.96 in Madras, and 20.6 in Bihar and Orissa, the Province from which my Honourable friend comes.

Mr. F. W. Hockenhull : Is it not a fact, Sir, that Tea Gardens render a monthly return of vital statistics ; that these are periodically checked by Government officers on the spot at their inspections ; and that the greater reliability of these returns will account for the disparity between the Tea Garden and Provincial death rates ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I am quite prepared, Sir, to take that from my Honourable friend. From my knowledge of the Tea Gardens, I should say that the registration of births and deaths on those gardens is more accurate than of those throughout the Province generally.

PRINTING OF THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR IN
IMPORTANT VERNACULARS.

987. ***Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra :** Are Government prepared to print the report of the Royal Labour Commission in the important vernaculars of the country to give the benefit of its existence to the workers in India as most of them do not know English ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : No. A similar suggestion was considered in 1931, at the time of the publication of the Report, and Government did not find it possible to accept it. The expense of publishing the report in several vernacular languages would be very considerable, and the advantages of doing so would be uncertain.

CONFIRMATION OF NON-GAZETTED POSTAL STAFF.

988. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of vacancies in each Circle and in each cadre in the Postal Department remaining vacant under orders of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, issued in April, 1931 ;
- (b) whether the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has come to any decision as regards the confirmation of lower cadres as has been done in the case of gazetted officers ;
- (c) whether the ban against confirmation has been removed in respect of other departments of the Government of India and the gazetted staff of the Postal Department ;
- (d) whether they are aware of the discontent that exists in the minds of the non-gazetted staff of the Post Offices on account of the partial treatment meted to the gazetted staff of the same department in the matter of confirmation ;
- (e) whether they propose to confirm these officials immediately, and if so, when ; and
- (f) if not, whether the lien of officiating men will be suspended under Fundamental Rule 13 so as to give them the benefit towards pension ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(b) to (f). Government have ordered that in regard to services and posts for which new scales of pay have been prescribed and to services and posts for which the existing scales of pay have been announced as applicable to new entrants also, the embargo imposed on confirmation should be removed with effect from the date of publication of the new scales or the date of announcement of no change, as the case may be.

Accordingly, the ban against confirmation has been removed in respect of those Departments of the Government of India with regard to such services and posts for which the new scales of pay have been announced. The ban against confirmation regarding the gazetted staff of the Postal Department has been removed for the same reason. Government recognise that the delay in the removal of the ban on confirmation in the case of a non-gazetted staff may, in some cases, result in a certain amount of loss. The question of the introduction of new scales of pay for the non-gazetted staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is under consideration and it is hoped to announce these scales of pay in the near future. The question of the removal of the ban against confirmation will be decided as soon as possible after the announcement of the new scales of pay. Government regret that they cannot accept the suggestion made by the Honourable Member in part (f) of the question.

INVESTIGATING INSPECTORS IN THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, BOMBAY.

989. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) how long the present Investigating Inspectors, attached to the Postmaster General's Office at Bombay, have been working in their present appointments and whether they are not overdue for transfers ;
- (b) whether only in March 1934 several transfers of Sub-Divisional Inspectors were effected in that circle ; and
- (c) whether the retention of the present Investigating Inspectors is indispensable, and if so, the reasons thereof ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) to (c). Government have no information. I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that, on account of the existing financial stringency, the orders which normally prescribe the intervals for transfers have temporarily been held in suspense, and transfers are being made only in those cases in which they are considered by the Head of the Circle to be specially desirable.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN PUBLIC SERVICES.

990. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Will Government be pleased to state whether their orders regarding communal representation in public services and their restricted application to direct recruitment only and not to promotions, have been communicated to the Postal Department ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Yes.

ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS SENT FOR REFRESHER COURSE TO CHANDAUSI.

991. ***Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla :** (a) Is it a fact that the old Assistant Station Masters are sent for Refresher Course to Chandausi ?

(b) Is it also a fact that they are required to receive training and to pass in more than half a dozen subjects in 21 days ?

(c) Will Government kindly state the necessity of introducing this system and whether it has actually increased the efficiency of even the old Assistant Station Masters ?

(d) Are Government aware that this is causing much inconvenience to the Assistant Station Masters of advanced age ?

(e) Are Government aware that many of the old Assistant Station Masters are not so well versed in English as to learn the course in English and pass the examination ?

(f) Will Government kindly state the monthly expenditure that they have been incurring on the Chandausi School ?

(g) Will Government kindly state the percentage of successful candidates at the last examination of the Chandausi institution ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Assistant Station Masters had to receive any training and pass any examination before their appointment as such ? If so, what were the subjects taught in that training and why even after that examination they are now again required to pass the Refresher Course ?

(i) What is the fate of those Assistant Station Masters who fail in both the attempts ?

(j) Are Government prepared to exempt the Assistant Station Masters of advanced age from the examination if they feel the necessity of retaining the Refresher Course ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOOD TO PILGRIMS ON PILGRIM SHIPS.

992. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha :** (a) Will Government please state if they are aware that Messrs. Turner Morrison and Company, Limited, had given away to a contractor the contract of food supply to the pilgrims on pilgrim ships to Hedjaz in the last pilgrim season ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said contractor is a relation of a director of the said shipping company ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the rates of the accepted tender by the Company for supply of food to the pilgrims ?

(d) How many tenders in all were received by the shipping company for supply of food ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the persons or companies who gave tenders, with the rates offered in the tenders ?

(f) Is it a fact that Abdul Sattar, Adamji, Jetporwala, 191, Furniture Bazar, Bombay, gave a tender to the shipping company with the following rates, of supply of food, but the tender was not accepted ?

Return Journey from Bombay, Rs. 16, A Class.

Return Journey from Bombay Rs. 8, B Class.

Return Journey from Karachi, Rs. 14, A Class.

Return Journey from Karachi, Rs. 7, B Class.

Return Journey from Calcutta, Rs. 26, A Class.

Return Journey from Calcutta, Rs. 13, B Class.

(g) Is it a fact that the company accepted a tender, with a much higher rate, *viz.*, as follows ?

Return Journey from Bombay, Rs. 24, A Class.

Return Journey from Bombay, Rs. 16, B Class.

Return Journey from Karachi, Rs. 18, A Class.

Return Journey from Karachi, Rs. 12, B Class.

Return Journey from Calcutta, Rs. 34, A Class.

Return Journey from Calcutta, Rs. 24, B Class.

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances due to which tender with higher rates was accepted by the Company in the presence of a tenderer offering much lower rates ?

(i) Do Government propose to see that the pilgrims in future do not pay more for their food when they can get it cheaper ?

(j) Did Government receive any information of the Hajee's troubles during the last pilgrim seasons, and have Government considered how to remedy them ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a), (b) and (d) to (j). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's starred question No. 61 on the 18th July, 1934, and connected supplementaries.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement.

Port of departure.	Scale of food.	Food charges for a single journey.		Food charges for journey both ways.	
		Per pilgrim of the age of ten years and over.	Per child under ten years of age.	Per pilgrim of the age of ten years and over.	Per child under ten years of age.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay	" A " Scale ..	12	6	24	12
	" B " Scale ..	8	4	16	8
Karachi	" A " Scale ..	9	4½	18	9
	" B " Scale ..	6	3	12	6
Calcutta	" A " Scale ..	17	8½	34	17
	" B " Scale ..	12	6	24	12

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

993. ***Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their resolution regarding the reservation of 25 per cent. of the services for the Muslims, applies to the Customs Department as well ?

(b) Is it a fact that nine posts were recently to be filled, in the new Customs House, Bombay, one of an appraiser and eight of examining officers ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether these vacancies were advertised or not ? If so, in which papers, and if not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that certain Muslims applied for the posts, nine out of which were graduates, but none was given an appointment ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the officiating Collector of Customs appointed a matriculate Parsee in the post of an appraiser, ignoring the graduate candidates ?

(f) Is it a fact that the said nine posts were filled as follows :

Four by Hindus, one by a Parsee, and one by a Christian ?

(g) Is it a fact that in the new Customs House, Bombay, thirty posts of appraisers and thirty posts of examining officers are held by various communities in the following order ?

			Muslims.	Hindus.	Christians.
Appraisers	..	..	3	8	7
Examining officers		..	5	6	11
			Europeans.		Parsees.
Appraisers	..	..		3	9
Examining officers		.		..	8

(h) Do Government propose to interfere in the recent appointments made by the Collector of Customs, New Customs House, Bombay, and give the Muslims their due share of appointments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Yes, but the Honourable Member's attention is specially drawn to paragraphs 6 and 9(3), which make it clear that on account of the special technical qualifications required in the Appraising Department, that Department has been excluded from the operation of the rules.

(b) The number of additional posts to be filled was three Appraisers and six Examining Officers.

(c) and (h). The Honourable Member is referred to the answers given yesterday to parts (b) and (g) of Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur's starred question No. 948.

(d) Two Muslim graduates were appointed to vacancies in the grade of Candidate Examining Officer.

(e) Yes, but the Parsi candidate appointed as an Appraiser possessed special technical qualifications and experience of the kind required for an Appraiser's post.

(f) and (g). The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. A statement showing the correct position is laid on the table.

(a) Statement showing how 3 posts of Appraisers and 7 posts of Examining Officers, including one vacancy created by the promotion of one Hindu Examining Officer to the post of Appraiser, were filled up at the Bombay Custom House.

3 Appraisers	..	..	..	1 Hindu. 1 Parsi. 1 Indian Christian.
7 Examining Officers	..	..	..	by promoting 7 Candidate Examining Officers.
7 Candidate Examining Officers	..	..	..	3 Hindus. 2 Muslims. 1 Parsi. 1 Indian Christian.

(b) Statement showing the present strength of Appraisers, Examining Officers and Candidate Examining Officers including recent appointments at the Bombay Custom House.

	Muslims.	Hindus.	Indian Christians.	Europeans, and Anglo-Indians.	Parsis.	Jews.	Total.
Appraisers	3	9	8	3	10	..	33
Examining Officers ..	5	16	4	1	10	2	38
Candidate Examining Officers	2	3	1	..	1	..	7

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : May I ask, Sir, what sort of qualification is required for the appointment of Examiners and Appraisers in the Customs Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I could not answer that question off-hand.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is it not a fact that, because of some influence from here and there, the Muslim candidates are always rejected from entering into this Service on the general plea that they are not qualified enough ? I want the Government to make it clear what sort of minimum qualification is required for the appointment to the posts of Appraisers and Examiners ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I will consider that matter. The difficulty is that different conditions prevail at different ports.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : May I ask how many posts are to be filled in the office of the Collector of the Customs Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : My answer was " Two Muslim graduates were appointed to vacancies in the grade of Candidate Examining Officer ".

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : I saw the Collector of Customs in this connection, and he mentioned to me certain qualifications, such as, the

examining of goods. I told him that, in Karachi and Bombay, there are plenty of Muslims belonging to the mercantile community who will be quite suitable for these appointments, but he did not listen to our request, and thus the authorities are not carrying out the terms of the Resolution of the Government of India. Will the Honourable Member kindly see to it and inform the local authorities that whenever any vacancies occur, they must consult the local mercantile community before filling them ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have already said in the first part of my answer that this is a special Department and it requires special technical qualifications, and, therefore, the Resolution of the Government of India does not apply to it. So, it would come to this that the best qualified man must be appointed to the post. Sometimes the best qualified candidate happens to be a Muslim, and, as I said, two Muslim graduates have actually been appointed.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : May I ask, Sir, if the vacancies in the Customs Department are advertised ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That point was dealt with in an answer which I gave yesterday. I said :

“ The vacancies are not advertised, but a register of selected applicants is maintained in the Customs House, and there were 114 names at the end of July on the Appraising Department register. In addition, 300 applications were received from all parts of India, and, out of these, 30 were selected for interview on the 3rd August, 1934.”

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I hope the Government will see our difficulty. If the minimum qualification required for the filling of the post is advertised, we will be able to put forward candidates.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The fact that we have received over 300 new applications is proof enough that the vacancies are sufficiently known.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : But Government should take only those candidates who are sufficiently qualified and should not take only those who are in contact with the Department or because they are the relations of some persons who are already in the Department ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am sorry, but I cannot hear the Honourable Member because of the activities of the Railway Board outside. (Laughter.)

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is the Honourable Member aware that the registration in the Customs Department depends on the will of the Collector of Customs or his head clerk ? In fact, without the permission of the head clerk, nobody can get himself registered.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Is it the accusation or the suggestion of the Honourable Member that nobody can get a job in the office of the Collector of Customs without the goodwill of the Collector of Customs ?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Yes.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : That is an obvious conclusion to be drawn from what I have said, but it does not necessarily mean that there is anything improper in it.

Sir Abdur Rahim : The Honourable Member has just said that the best qualified men are taken in the Department and that the qualifications required are of a technical nature. I should like to know if the Honourable Member can tell us whether there is a competitive examination by which it is ascertained who are the best qualified men ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : No, Sir. There is an interview conducted by the Collector of Customs.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Does not the Honourable Member think that if as a matter of fact, the best qualified men are required, then there should be a competitive examination to find out who are the best candidates ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I certainly would not admit that, but I will consider this matter much more carefully later than I can do at the moment. As far as I know at the moment, the actual selection has proved satisfactory, and there is no lack of qualified candidates.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Does not the Honourable Member realise that if it is left to the will of the head of the Department to decide as to who are the best qualified men, then questions that have been raised here on the floor of the House are likely to arise, and there will be a good deal of suspicion that selections may not be free from some sort of favouritism.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I agree with the Honourable Member that that is an inevitable drawback of any selection system, but whether in this particular case a competitive system may not create equal difficulties or even greater difficulties in other directions is a matter to be weighed against the disadvantages of selection.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Even if it is desirable in the opinion of the Honourable Member that selection should be made by some officer without the test of a competitive examination, I suggest to the Honourable Member for his consideration whether it would not be better to leave the selection in the hands of the Public Service Commission or some similar body ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I will consider that point without making any attempt to anticipate final conclusions.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government kindly consider seriously the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition, namely, that a competitive examination should be held to test the ability of candidates, not only for appointments in the Customs Department, but in other Departments of the Government of India ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shammukham Chetty) : That question does not arise out of the present one.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : At present there is an unrestricted discretion with the Collector of Customs. Does the Honourable Member know that the Collector has appointed matriculates in preference to graduates ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : There was one particular case, and I have already referred to it in the answer which I have just given. I may repeat that answer :

“(c) Yes, but the Parsi candidate appointed as an Appraiser possessed special technical qualifications and experience of the kind required for an appraiser's post.”

Apart from that, what I would say to the Honourable Member is that one swallow does not make a summer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Honourable Member take it from me that in Karachi something like that has happened, and may I request the Honourable Member that, with a view to removing these grievances, will it not be better if actual qualifications are laid down and examination conducted through the Public Service Commission ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Two suggestions have been made, the one is for a competitive examination and the other is selection through the Public Service Commission. I have already undertaken, in reply to a question by the Leader of the Opposition, to consider the question of selection by the Public Service Commission, and, naturally, I should consider the question of competitive examination also, but I can see great difficulty in the question of examination.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : There is a standing grievance that the applicants from the up-country are not given a chance for appointment as customs officers, because they are not known to the Collector of Customs, and the applicants who are near about the place where the selection is made are well known to the Collector of Customs, and thus they have a very great advantage over the up-country applicants. Will the Honourable Member rectify this defect ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have myself investigated this question of selection of candidates from the up-country parts, and it is not the case that no up-country people are appointed. On the whole, I am satisfied that up-country candidates get a fair consideration.

†994*.—995*.

PERMISSION GIVEN TO THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, PUSA RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
TO RUN A CINEMA.

996. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi :** (a) Is it a fact that permission was given to the Electrical Engineer, Pusa Agricultural Research Institute, some months ago to run a cinema on the Pusa Estate, that the current used was from the Government supply, and that the whole staff of the Power House was busy with the cinema performances ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the current was metered, what amount was paid to Government for the use of this current, in whose name the cinema was run, and whether the permission of the Government of India was obtained as also that of the Electrical Department of the Government of Bihar and Orissa ?

(c) Do Government permit their officers like the Electrical Engineer, to indulge in private profit making enterprises, like running cinema shows, manufacturing soda water, etc. ? Are Government aware that such things usually lead to abuse of position and abuse of Government materials ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Electrical Engineer has running water-supply in his house, a luxury which even the Director of the Institute does not have, whether he is charged for the water he uses and, whether the water is pumped into the reservoir using electric current ?

†These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

(c) Are Government aware that the primary purpose of this reservoir has now become merely the supply of water to the Engineer, whatever the paper reason for it may be ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : With your permission, I shall answer question Nos. 996 and 997 together .

The information has been called for and will be supplied in due course.

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF IN THE PUSA RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

†997. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff retrenched from the various research sections of the Pusa Institute in 1931, following the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, both superior and menial and the staff retrenched from the Power House ?

PROMOTION AND SENIORITY OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

998. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** Will Government please state the policy and procedure of promotion and seniority of the Travelling Ticket Examiners and Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts and Audit Department now transferred to the Operating Department of the North Western and East Indian Railways, respectively ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am not sure whether my Honourable friend is referring to their seniority *inter se* or with regard to other staff. If the former, the position could not have been altered by the control over them being transferred to the Traffic Department. If the latter, I cannot answer the question till he informs me what other staff he is comparing them with.

GRANT OF PASSES TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

999. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Will Government please state the policy and procedure for the grant of duty and privilege passes to the Travelling Ticket Examiners (under the Mody-Ward Scheme) of the North Western and East Indian Railways, respectively ?

(b) Will Government please state the policy and procedure in force regarding the grant of duty passes to the Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Accounts and Audit Department on the East Indian Railway ?

(c) Will Government please state the distinction in the policy and procedure for the grant of duty passes to the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the North Western and East Indian Railways under the Accounts and Audit Department and the Operating Department, respectively ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am obtaining information in regard to the East Indian Railway and will lay on the table of the House the particulars required regarding that railway. As regards the North Western Railway :

(a) The scheme recommended by the Moody-Ward Committee was not adopted over that line ;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 996.

- (c) The rules governing the issue of duty passes to Travelling Ticket Inspectors who, prior to 1st June, 1931, were under the Audit Department, and, thereafter, under the Commercial Branch, are the same as for Special Ticket Examiners now employed under the Commercial Branch. No Special Ticket Examiners are under the Operating Branch.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Is it the Mody-Ward scheme as stated in the question ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : In my answer I have given the correct spelling, Moody.

PROMOTION OF STAFF OF THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY.

1000. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Will Government please state the policy and procedure for filling of the sanctioned posts on the Oudh and Rohilkund Section of the East Indian Railway ?

(b) Will Government please state the policy and procedure for promotion of the staff of the old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). Recruitment of subordinate staff on all sections of the East Indian Railway is generally made in accordance with the " Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways ", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Promotions are made according to seniority and merit. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of the House on the 12th December, 1933, in reply to Mr. Bower's starred question No. 1017.

POST OF THE ASSISTANT MASTER GENERAL OF ORDNANCE.

1001. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** With reference to the answer to Mr. Bhuput Sing's starred question No. 104 of the 19th July, 1934, wherein it had been stated by the Army Secretary that the appointment of an Assistant Master General of Ordnance at Army Headquarters is quite a recent one, are Government aware that in reply to my starred question No. 672 of the 10th April, 1934, it had been stated that the post in question was not a new one ? If so, will Government please state which is the correct answer ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : Both replies are correct in their context. The title of Assistant Master General of the Ordnance is new, but the appointment is an old one which was formerly designated Assistant Director of Technical Organisation.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, ROME.

1002. ***Mr. B. V. Jadhav :** (a) With reference to the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the names of representatives of India on the Institute since its foundation ;
- (ii) what financial contributions have been made by India to the Institute since its foundation ; and what percentages they formed of the total contributions made by different countries ; and

(iii) if any Indian held any office in the Institute, paid or otherwise ?

(b) Does the Institute award any scholarship for research ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, has any Indian been awarded any such scholarship ?

(d) Does the Institute allow any one to work in the Institute in connection with advanced studies ?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, has any Indian been given such facilities ?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the negative, are Government prepared to see that Indians are given such facilities ?

(g) Has India ever been represented by a non-official expert on the Institute ? If not, why not ?

(h) Are Government prepared to see that Indians are given facilities for carrying on research work, and also financial assistance, by the Institute ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The information is being collected and will be supplied in due course.

SUB-LETTING OF ICE AND AERATED WATER CONTRACT ON CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1003. *Seth Liladhar Chaudhury : (a) Is it a fact that the ice and aerated water contractors of the Northern and Southern Sections of the North Western Railway, have sold the out-stations to their sub-agents ? Are Government aware that this has caused great inconvenience to the travelling public on account of the poor quality of supplies ? Are Government aware that this is against the Railway rules ? If so, why have these sub-agencies been made ?

(b) Do Government propose to stop the sub-letting of such contracts to avoid inconvenience to the public who are directly hit ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). The Agent, North Western Railway, states that he is not aware of the contractors having sub-let their contracts. Such sub-letting is not permitted under the rules.

STAFF IN THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

1004. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : Will Government be pleased to state the total number of :

(i) gazetted officers in the Imperial Customs Service in the Madras Presidency,

.. (ii) departmental heads in the non-gazetted ranks thereof,

.. (iii) deputy superintendents of the departments,

.. (iv) permanently employed appraisers,

.. (v) assistant inspectors,

.. (vi) upper division clerks,

and the number of Muslims under the respective divisions ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I place on the table a statement which gives the required information.

<i>Statement.</i>					Total Number.	Muslim.
(i)	..	..	..	..	4	....
(ii)	..	..	..	..	4	....
(iii)	..	..	..	..	5	....
(iv)	..	..	..	..	12	....
(v)	..	..	..	..	16	....
(vi)	..	..	..	..	19	....

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF STENOGRAPHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS.

1005. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : Will Government please state the number of stenographers, community-wise, working, either permanently or temporarily in the :

- (i) Home Department ;
- (ii) Finance Department ;
- (iii) Commerce Department ;
- (iv) Industries and Labour Department ;
- (v) Education, Health and Lands Department ;
- (vi) Foreign and Political Department ;
- (vii) Legislative Department ;
- (viii) Legislative Assembly Department ;
- (ix) Army Department ; and
- (x) Agricultural Research Council ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I lay on the table a statement which gives the necessary information.

Statement showing the number of Stenographers employed in certain Departments of the Government of India and the community to which they belong.

Name of Department.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Indian Christians.	Parsis.
Home	3	1*	1†	2	..	..
Finance	7	..	1‡	..	..	..
Commerce	6	..	..	..	..	..
Industries and Labour	5‡	2	..	..	..	..
Education, Health and Lands.	4‡	1	..	..	..	1
Foreign and Political..	6§	1	..	1	..	..
Legislative	2	..	..	..	..	..
Legislative Assembly	2	..	..	..	..	..
Army .. ..	..	1	..	2	..	..
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.	2	1	1	..	..	..

* On deputation. †Vice the Stenographer on deputation. ‡One temporary. § Two temporary.

IMPOSITION OF FINES ON THE STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1006. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar** : With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 18th July, 1934, in reply to question No. 531 of the 19th March, 1934, relating to the imposition of fines on the staff on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the offences punishable by fines and the amount of fine leviable for each offences ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The punishment depends on the circumstances of each case. Government have not laid down, nor are they prepared to lay down, any scale.

POSTS OF CONTROLLERS SANCTIONED ON THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1007. ***Sardar G. N. Mujumdar** : Is it a fact that only three posts of Controllers (Rs. 310—10—350) are sanctioned for the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway ? If not, how many are sanctioned ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The information given by the Honourable Member in the first part of the question is correct according to the classified list corrected up to September, 1933.

AGE-LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF CANTONMENTS.

1008. ***Rai Sahib Badri Lal Rastogi** : (a) Is there any age-limit prescribed for appointment of Executive Officers, Class II, under the present rules of recruitment to this service ?

(b) Have Government stopped recruitment for the posts of Executive Officers, Class II, pending re-organisation of the Cantonments Department ? If so, are Government aware that it would debar many officers from entering this service from the Army, who are now eligible for appointment so far as age-limit is concerned and would be ineligible hereafter if the re-organisation of the Department takes time ?

(c) Will the Indian officers and the officers of the Indian Territorial Force remain eligible for employment to the Cantonments Department under the new scheme as well ?

(d) Do Government propose to frame rules that the officers who are now eligible for appointment are not debarred from entering this service due to age-limit when recruitment under the new scheme opens ?

Lieut.-Colonel A. F. R. Lumby : (a) The limit is 35 years.

(b) The answer to the first question is in the negative. Officers are recruited as and when vacancies occur. One officer was appointed Executive Officer, Class II, as recently as May, 1934, and another has recently been placed under training and will be appointed in January, 1935. The second question, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d). The scheme is still under consideration, and, I am, therefore, unable to give a definite answer, except as regards the extension of the age-limit. This, I fear, will not be possible.

AMOUNT GIVEN TO INDIGO PLANTERS IN BIHAR, AND TO OTHERS OUT OF THE VICEBOY'S EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND.

1009. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : (a) Will Government kindly state the number of indigo planters in Bihar, and the total amount of money

given to them collectively out of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund, and also the number of Indian gentlemen, and the total amount of money given to them collectively out of the same fund ?

(b) What plan of relief is being pursued to assist middle-class persons in Bihar, who have suffered from the earthquake ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I must draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund is administered by a Central Committee appointed by His Excellency the Viceroy and a Provincial Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor of Bihar and Orissa. Control of expenditure is not in the hands either of the Government of India or the Local Government. The manner in which funds have so far been allotted is shown in the Communiqué, a newspaper copy of which I lay on the table.

Government Communiqué.

No. 40.

The following communiqué has been issued by the reconstruction department of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund :—

The following details regarding the expenditure from the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund are published for the information of subscribers and of the general public. Up to the 25th of July, 1934, the allotments made by the Bihar and Orissa Committee to each of the main heads of relief were as follows :—

Charitable and rural relief, Rs. 2,72,184.
 House-building grants (urban), Rs. 11,09,642.
 House-building grants (rural), Rs. 15,60,250.
 Relief to the Planting community, Rs. 1,27,500.
 Clearance of congested municipal areas, Rs. 70,000.
 Semi-permanent housing and supply of building materials, Rs. 10,90,000.
 House-building grants to the middle classes, Rs. 5,90,000.
 Grants other than house-buildings to middle class, professional classes, etc., Rs. 3,25,000.
 Miscellaneous, Rs. 80,425.
 Total Rs. 52,25,001.

Allotments of Rs. 3,00,000 for the provision of sugar mills and Rs. 2,86,650 for sand clearance grants were originally made. But as these items of expenditure were subsequently transferred to the Government of India, and to the Famine Relief Fund of the local Government respectively, they have been omitted from the statement. It must be emphasized that the allotments specified above do not represent actual expenditure, but appropriations towards the different objects on which the fund is being expended.

2. Against these allotments, the committee places in the hands of controlling and disbursing officers the sums which they require for expenditure in the near future. The following sums have been placed in the hands of controlling and disbursing officers up to July 25th, 1934. The figures are approximate.

Charitable and rural relief, Rs. 2,68,000.
 House-building grants (urban), Rs. 10,06,000.
 House-building grants (rural), Rs. 14,95,000.
 Relief to the Planting community, Rs. 1,27,000.
 Clearance of congested municipal areas, Rs. 70,000.
 Semi-permanent housing, and supply of building materials, Rs. 7,81,000.
 House-building grants to the middle classes, Rs. 1,92,000.
 Grants, other than house-building, to middle classes, professional classes, etc., Rs. 60,000.
 Miscellaneous, Rs. 59,000.
 Total Rs. 40,58,000.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government please state whether the Committee is under the control of the Local Government or under the control of the Central Government or whether there is no control over that Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I understand the Committee is an independent body, not subject to the control of either the Local Government or the Central Government.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Will Government kindly take into consideration the desirability of having the work of the local Committee supervised by the Central Committee, so that the distribution of the money.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : But the Government have no control over the Central Committee either.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it not a fact that this question of giving grants out of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund has been referred to in the Budget speeches of the then Finance Member and also of the Finance Secretary ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I am afraid I do not remember that.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Government referred to the Earthquake Relief Fund of the Viceroy for relief, and, at the same time, they disclaim any responsibility for the administration of the Fund and they do not disclose the amounts given to individual persons. That is rather unfair.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Will Government advise the Committees appointed for the distribution of the fund that they should publish their schemes so that people might know what they are going to do.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : They have published a long communiqué stating what they have done.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : But I want to know what they are going to do hereafter, because there are so many things to be done still.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I will pass on that suggestion, to the Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : If Honourable Members are interested in this question, they ought to address the Secretary to the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund which is an independent department with which the Government of India have absolutely no concern.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But a lot of suspicion exists, and that is why we put questions here.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : What about the funds of the local Committee ? Has any money been granted.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : But the present question relates to the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund.

PROPOSAL FOR CEDING THE SETTLEMENT OF THANGASSERI TO THE TRAVANCORE STATE.

1010. ***Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** (on behalf of Mr. K. P. Thampan) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal for ceding to the State of Travancore the settlement of Thangasseri, which formerly formed part of Malabar and now is a part of the Tinnevely District in the Madras Presidency ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Collector of Tinnevely was ordered to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of Thangasseri in this matter and that he has submitted his report ? If so, will the report be laid on the table ?

(c) What method did the Collector adopt to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants and what is the opinion of the majority ?

(d) Do Government propose to give sufficient publicity to the proposal before any definite action is taken ?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe : The question is under consideration, and the Government of India are unable to make any statement regarding it at present.

LLOYD BARRAGE AND CANAL CONSTRUCTION SCHEME.

1011. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what concern they have with the Lloyd Barrage and Canal Construction system, and its administration ?

(b) Who has spent money on its construction and how much ? Has the loan been given solely by the Government of India ? If so, has any interest been paid to them on that loan ?

(c) What special precautions are Government taking to see that the Barrage proves to be a success ?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have given large tracts of land in 'Tharparkar' District and elsewhere in Sind to Europeans on easy terms by way of leases for long terms ? If so, to whom and on what terms ?

(e) Is it a fact that Government are building in Tharparkar District new railways which will facilitate these European concerns mostly ?

(f) Was any attempt made to lease out these lands to indigenous people on similar terms before they were let out to these European companies ? If so, to whom ? If not, why not ?

(g) Is it a fact that people of Mirpur Khas District were refused land on terms on which they were given to the aforesaid European companies ?

(h) Do Government propose to let out lands in Sind on easy terms by way of leases to Sind people, and advertise the same, in view of the present times of depression and want of money ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). The Government of India are not directly concerned with the administration of the Lloyd Barrage and Canal Construction scheme. The funds required for its construction have been advanced by the Government of India. The total amount advanced upto the 31st March, 1933, amounted to Rs. 22.76 crores including 3.93 crores on account of interest. The amount of

interest in excess of the net receipts from the project is debited to capital during the period of construction.

(c) All possible steps are being taken to accelerate the development of the Lloyd Barrage area as a revenue producing asset so that the repayment of the advance from the Government of India may be expedited. I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated the 13th July, 1934.

(d), (f), (g) and (h). These are matters for the Local Government. The Government of India have no information.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways held on the 13th August, 1934. The railway line has been so aligned as to afford the greatest facilities to agriculturists generally.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : If the Government of India have nothing to do with the sale, disposal and lease of this land, and if it is in the hands of the Provincial Government, why is this Government going to incur expenditure and how will Government get the interest back without a proper sale being done and giving it to Europeans and foreigners ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Sales of land are obviously a matter for the Local Government. The Government of India have no local knowledge, and they have no reason to believe that the Government of Bombay are not exercising their discretion properly in this matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government then have some supervision over them ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The Government of India are not in a position to exercise detailed supervision in a matter of that kind.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is it not a fact that the Government of India sent an expert Road Engineer to Sind to examine the road conditions and report to the Government of India ? Has that report reached the Government of India, and, if so, what action have Government taken on it ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I cannot answer my Honourable friend's question off-hand. But I can explain that the position is that that report was drawn up by an officer whose cost was met from the Road Development Fund. His report, I think, is at the moment under the consideration of the Local Government ; and when it comes up to the Government of India, it will be placed before the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads and will be duly considered by them. I have no doubt whatever that the Government of India on their advice will be glad to give all the assistance they can in the matter.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state whether this line mentioned in part (e) of this question is the Jhudo-Pithoro line or some other line ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I am sorry I have no information on that point.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : If the Government of India are not prepared to take any responsibility with regard to the disposal of this land, may I know if they are prepared to send these questions to the Government of Bombay to see that the lands are properly disposed of ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I shall be very glad to pass on my Honourable friend's question to the Government of Bombay.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT SURGEON IN CHARGE OF PHAGLI DISPENSARY, SIMLA.

1012. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Will Government please state if it is not a fact that about 2,500 Government employees of the Government of India with their families are residing in Phagli, Ram Nagar, Nabha Estate, Tutikundi, and Boileungunj in Simla ?

(b) Are Government aware that the dispensary in Phagli is in the charge of a sub-assistant surgeon and not adequately equipped to meet the requirements of such a large number of Government employees and their families residing in the localities referred to in part (a) above ?

(c) Are Government aware that the localities mentioned in part (a) above are too far away from the Civil and Military Dispensary ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Government employees entitled to free medical attendance cannot avail themselves of the services of the sub-assistant surgeon in charge of the Phagli Dispensary free of charge and their prescriptions from their proper medical attendants are not dispensed in this dispensary ?

(e) Is it a fact that the dispensaries at Summer Hill and Mashobra are in charge of Assistant Surgeons ?

(f) Is it not a fact that the number of Government servants with their families residing in Summer Hill and Mashobra is much less than those living in Ramnagar, Phagli, Nabha Estate, Tutikundi and Boileungunj ?

(g) If the answers to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to appoint an Assistant Surgeon in charge of an adequately provided dispensary in Phagli ?

(h) Will Government please state the locality in which the two Assistant Surgeons and one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, intended for attendance on clerks of Civil Secretariat and Attached Offices and one Assistant Surgeon and one Sub-Assistant Surgeon for Army Headquarters, reside ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The subject-matter of parts (a) to (h) of the Honourable Member's question has recently been considered by the Government of India on a representation received from the Imperial Secretariat Association. At Phagli, there is a populous colony of entitled employees of the Government of India, but there are colonies in other parts of Simla as well, e.g., Bharari, Chota Simla, Kasumti, and so on. To provide medical aid for their ministerial staff, the Government of India maintain no less than three Indian Medical Service Officers, one R. A. M. C. officer, one Civil Assistant Surgeon, three Military Assistant Surgeons, and two military sub-Assistant Surgeons, and one main dispensary, viz., the Civil and Military. In their own opinion, this constitutes adequate medical provision for their staff. All that can

be reasonably expected is that these officers may be within practicable reach of all these colonies. Government consider that the present residences of these officers, which are enumerated in the statement which I lay on the table, fulfil this condition. Government regret that they cannot accept the principle of one medical attendant for each colony as this would be unnecessarily expensive.

Statement.

Secretariat and Attached Offices.

<i>Medical Officers.</i>	<i>Locality of residence.</i>
1. The Civil Surgeon, Simla East	.. Cranagh, East.
2. The Civil Surgeon, Simla West	.. Balquholly, S. W.
3. The Civil Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Junior Secretariat Establishment.	Falklands near Lakkar Bazar.
4. The Military Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Junior Secretariat Establishment.	Grange Ville near Lady Reading Hospital
5. The Military Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Civil and Military Dispensary.	Oakley Lodge near Ripon Hospital.

Army Headquarters.

1. The Surgeon to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.	United Service Club.
2. The Additional Medical Officer, Army Headquarters.	Oatlands East.
3. The Military Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Army Headquarters Establishment.	Archdale, Jakko.
4. The Military Assistant Surgeon in Sub-Medical Charge of the Summer Hill Depot.	Summer Hill quarters.
5. The Military Sub-Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Army Headquarters Establishment.	Paragon Cottage near Ripon Hospital.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LOANS ADVANCED BY GOVERNMENT TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

128. Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra : Will Government please place on the table a statement showing the amounts they have advanced as loans to private individuals giving the names and rates of interests of the loans, as well as the reasons which induced them to advance these loans to private individuals, with a summary of the services rendered by each of them to Government ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I regret that the information desired by the Honourable Member is not available, and I do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by collecting it from the local officers concerned.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES AS TRAIN EXAMINERS.

129. Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : (a) Are Government aware that it has been stated repeatedly in answers to unstarred questions Nos. 19 and 22 of the 5th September, 1932, and starred question No. 1530 (a) of the 5th December, 1932, relating to the appointment of Lillooah apprentices as Train Examiners that a certain Anglo-Indian apprentice had no training even in one shop as referred to by Government in reply to starred question No. 631 (a) of 4th March, 1932, for the post of Train Examiner ?

(b) Are Government aware that 40 per cent. is the standard of pass marks of the East Indian Railway Technical School at Jamalpore ?

(c) Are Government aware that it has been stated in reply to unstarred question No. 19 of 5th December, 1932, that the said Anglo-Indian obtained 36 per cent. marks in the Technical School ?

(d) Are Government aware that it has been stated in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 19 and 22 (b) of 5th September, 1932, that all the Indians of his batch obtained higher marks in the Technical School ?

(e) Are Government aware that the Indian *ex*-apprentices of the East Indian Railway Workshop, Lillooah, passed in the first divisions, worked in the Train Examining section throughout the last strikes (working daily for 8 hours on Sundays, Saturdays and even on all public holidays), and had also training in one or more shops as referred to by Government in reply to starred question No. 631 (a) of 4th March, 1932, and that the European or Anglo-Indian *ex*-apprentices of the same workshop failed or passed in lower divisions and had no training even in one shop as referred to by Government ? If not, will Government please state the reasons ?

(f) If the answers to parts (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state with reference to the answer to starred question No. 828 of 12th September, 1933 :

(i) how the Anglo-Indian apprentice possessed the qualifications for the appointment of Train Examiner ;

(ii) how he passed in the Technical School ;

(iii) whether they made any endeavour to select any better qualified Indian of his batch, and whether most of the Indians of his batch had training in one or more shops as required by Government, and whether most of them obtained higher marks in the Technical School, and whether they had training in one or more shops as referred to by Government for the post of Train Examiner ; if so, in what way ; if not, why not ; and

(iv) the reasons for not selecting any one of the two senior Indians ? If not, why not ?

(g) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) above, be in the negative, will Government please lay on the table copies of the certificates of theoretical and practical training of the Anglo-Indian who was referred to in reply to starred question No. 828 of 12th September, 1933 ? If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 129 and 130 together.

I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF LILLOOAH APPRENTICES.

†130. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :** (a) Are Government aware that the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, Lillooah, informed Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Howrah, in reply to his letter D.O. No. E.T./R.S./15-D.S., Howrah, of the 11th January, 1934, that the two Indian *ex*-apprentices of 1930 who were referred to in reply to starred question No. 829 of 12th September, 1933, were not sent back to Lillooah for unsatisfactory working ?

(b) Are Government aware that those two Indians possess definite proof that they were not sent back to Lillooah for unsatisfactory work and irregular attendance as stated by Government ? Are Government also aware that one of them was retained there a few days more after the strike was over ?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state :

(i) what justification they had for appointing the Anglo-Indian as referred to in answer to starred question No. 828 of 12th September, 1933, in preference to any one of those two Indians of his batch ;

(ii) why the said Anglo-Indian will not be replaced by an Indian of his batch ?

(d) Are Government prepared to appoint those two Indian *ex*-apprentices of 1930 who worked under the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Howrah, during the last strikes to suitable posts under the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, when next vacancies arise and issue necessary orders to the officer concerned to this effect ? If not, why not ?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please lay a copy of the order on the table ? If not, why not ?

(f) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, are Government prepared to make an early enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps ? If so, in what way ? If not, why not ?

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP STAFF AT JAMALPORE.

131. **Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :** (a) Who is the special officer of the East Indian Railway appointed at Jamalpore and what are the terms and what are his duties and what has he done so far ?

(b) What suggestions, if any, have been made by the East Indian Railway Administration to Railway Board or Government regarding the Jamalpore staff ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 129.

(c) Will Government please state whether the Railway authorities are prepared to cancel the four day week order immediately and continue the six day week as before at Jamalpore in consideration of their loss due to earthquake and flood ?

(d) Are the Railway authorities prepared to restore the 5 per cent. cut immediately at Jamalpore ?

(e) What help has been given to the Jamalpore workers from the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Mr. Bonar, a senior scale officer of the Mechanical Engineering Department of the East Indian Railway, was placed on Special Duty in connection with earthquake that took place at Jamalpur on the 15th January, 1934. The principal duties which he was required to perform were in connection with the housing, food-supply, financial assistance and general attendance to the staff who had been rendered homeless by the earthquake and also to keep in touch with the Civil and Police authorities. The Railway Board have not so far received a report of what has actually been done by him.

(b) No suggestions have so far been received.

(c) Full time working has been resumed in Jamalpur workshops with effect from the 4th August, 1934, with the exception of the Erecting Shop, Boiler Shop, Copper-Smith's Shop and Heat Treatment Shop which are at present working five days a week.

(d) No.

(e) Government have no information.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO *Daftries* IN THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH AND THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

132. **Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Is it a fact that to the *daftries* of the Secretariat offices and several attached offices the quarters are allotted by seniority and that in the office of the Quartermaster General and Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, this procedure is not observed ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to have the same system introduced also in the offices of the Quartermaster General and the Chief Controller, Indian Stores Department as is in existence in other offices of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) The procedure for allotment of quarters to *daftries* varies in the various Departments of the Government of India and attached offices. Quarters are generally allotted in order of seniority, but exceptions to this practice are made in some offices in the cases of persons (i) having liens, (ii) living with families and (iii) whose presence in proximity to office is considered necessary.

In the Quartermaster General's Branch and the Indian Stores Department quarters are allotted by rotation in view of the insufficient number of quarters available. This procedure is designed to give individuals a fair chance of bringing their families to Delhi in turn. In the Indian Stores Department the procedure was adopted as a result of a

representation from some of the *daftries* who have had no chance of obtaining accommodation for some years.

(b) It is not proposed to alter the existing arrangements.

PENSIONS TO *Daftries* OF THE ATTACHED OFFICES.

133 **Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah** : (a) Will Government please state the amount of pension granted to the *daftries* in the Secretariat offices of the Government of India after putting in full service at the time of retirement ?

(b) Will Government please state the amount of pension granted to the *daftries* in the attached offices of the Government of India after putting in full service at the time of retirement ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Secretariat offices of the Government of India half-pay pension is granted to the *daftries* and that in the attached offices not more than Rs. 4 are granted as pension to a *daftary* irrespective of the pay he is drawing at the time of retirement ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for such disparity between the pensions of *daftries* of these offices ?

(e) Are Government aware that there is much dissatisfaction among the *daftries* of the attached offices owing to this difference in the pensions and are Government prepared to take immediate steps to grant full half-pay pension to the *daftries* of attached offices also ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) Half pay not exceeding Rs. 20 a month.

(b) Half pay not exceeding Rs. 10 a month in Branches of Army Headquarters and half pay not exceeding Rs. 4 a month in other Attached Offices.

(c) Yes, except in Army Headquarters.

(d) and (e). The disparity is recognised and the question of revising the pension of *daftries* in Attached Offices will be considered when the financial position improves.

GRANT OF FAMILY TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO *Daftries* OF THE ATTACHED OFFICES.

134. **Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah** : (a) Is it a fact that family travelling allowance is granted to the *daftries* and peons in the Secretariat offices of the Government of India at the time of move while only single travelling allowance is given to the *daftries* and peons of attached offices ?

(b) Will Government please state the reasons for withholding this concession to the *daftries* and peons of the attached offices and are they prepared to take steps to extend this to them also ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : (a) Yes.

(b) Consideration of the matter has been deferred because of financial stringency.

MEETING OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAYMEN'S UNION, LUCKNOW.

135. **Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it not a fact that the East Indian Railwaymen's Union, Lucknow, is a registered trade union and is recognised by the Railway Administration ?

(b) Is it the policy of the Railway Board to encourage the trade union movement on the Indian Railways ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Board desires that each railway system should have only one trade union organisation for the employees ?

(d) Are Government aware that the East Indian Railwaymen's Union called a conference on the 14th and 15th April, 1934, at Lucknow, for the purpose of amalgamating all the unions on the East Indian Railway ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Railway authorities tried to check the conference activities of the union officials ?

(f) Is it a fact that Mr. B. K. Mukerjee, the Secretary of the Conference, was reprimanded by the Employment Officer, Loco. Shops, Lucknow, just before the Conference, for the mere fact of receiving a notice of a meeting of the committee ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Works Manager prohibited collection of subscription for the conference even outside the Workshop gate, and are Government aware that the Mahajans and Kabulis are allowed to harass the workers at the shop gates ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) The attitude of the Railway Board is that Union conducted on sound trade union principles ought to be encouraged.

(c) No.

(d) Government understand that a conference purporting to be of all East Indian Railway workmen was held at Lucknow on the 14th and 15th April, 1934.

(e), (f) and (g). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

INCOME-TAX REALISED FROM PERSONS WITH AN INCOME BETWEEN RS. 1,000 AND RS. 1,999.

136. **Lala Rameshwar Prasad Bagla :** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of income-tax realised from persons whose annual income was between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,999 during the financial year April, 1933, to March, 1934 ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Approximately 82 lakhs.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 331 asked by Mr. S. C. Mitra on the 2nd March, 1934.

DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

It is much regretted that it is still impossible to give a final reply. The matter which is of a complicated nature is under consideration and a final reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as early as possible.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 334, asked by Mr. S. G. Jog on the 2nd March, 1934.

DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

It is much regretted that it is still impossible to give a final reply. The matter is under consideration and a final reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as early as possible.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 751 asked by 'Rai Bahadur Lala Brij Kishore on the 17th April, 1934.

REMOVAL OF RELICS OF SANIPUTRA AND MAGALLANA TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM AT LONDON.

751 (a). Enquiries made from the authorities of the British Museum show that the relics of Saniputra and Mahamagalana are not in the British Museum.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (d) of starred question No. 229 asked by Mr. Vidya Saagar Pandya on the 25th July, 1934.

MADRAS TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(b) The Company's shares have appreciated from Rs. 10, the price at which they were issued in 1923, to Rs. 18-8-0, the last price shown for transactions in the local market.

(d) In 1929, existing shareholders of the Company were given the option to subscribe for 29,439 shares par value Rs. 10 at Rs. 1 premium. At that time the Company's shares were quoted in the local market at Rs. 12, i.e., Rs. 2 premium.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 25 asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 31st July, 1934.

CESS ON SOFT COKE.

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The position appears to be as follows: The definition of soft coke for the purposes of the Soft Coke Cess Act is "coke unsuitable for metallurgical purposes". The partially coked residues of bye-product coke plants and open ovens were considered by the coal trade as unsuitable for metallurgical purposes and these have been on occasion booked as "soft coke". This practice has however now been stopped and under an arrangement between the East Indian and Bengal Nagpur Railways and the Soft Coke Cess Committee, samples of consignments of coke which

are suspected by the Railway to be of doubtful character are placed before the Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board (who is also President of the Soft Coke Cess Committee) for opinion on the character of the coke. The Railways subsequently adjust the railway freight on consignments of coke wrongly declared as soft coke. As a result of the arrangement stated above, the quantity of coke wrongly declared as soft coke has been gradually reduced as will be seen from the following figures :

					Quantity reported by Mines Department.	Quantity on which cess collected by Railways.	Difference.
					Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1931	..	..	..	..	722,597	759,780	37,183
1932	..	..	..	..	756,036	785,830	29,794
1933	..	..	..	..	823,073	843,037	19,964

The names of the Bye-product Coke Plants and their Managing Agents are :—

Name of Plant.	Managing Agents.
Bhowra Coke Plant	Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Company.
Barares Coke Plant	Messrs. Jardine Skinner and Company.
Loyabad Coke Plant	Messrs. Bird and Company.
Lodna Coke Plant	Messrs. Turner Morrison and Company.

There are in addition a number of second class collieries manufacturing both hard and soft coke, but Government are not aware which are actually responsible for despatching hard coke as soft coke.

(d) The Indian Railways Act does not provide for action being taken in such cases.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 488 by Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra on the 7th August, 1934.

ORIAS EMPLOYED IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT IN THE ORISSA CIRCLE.

The number of Oriyas employed in the Bihar and Orissa Circle in the "Telegraph Department", by which the Honourable Member presumably means the two branches, Telegraph Traffic and Telegraph Engineering, is :

Telegraph Traffic Branch	..	..	..	8
Telegraph Engineering Branch	..	..	..	54

Information promised in reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 63 asked by Seth Liladhar Chaudhury on the 15th August, 1934.

RECRUITMENT OF INFERIOR POSTAL STAFF IN DELHI.

(b) During the period in question the Postmaster, Delhi, recruited three inferior servants, one Hindu and two Muslims.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 682, asked by Mr. S. G. Jog on the 20th August, 1934.

INDIAN DOCTOR APPOINTED ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR SELECTION BOARD OF THE CENTRAL DUFFERIN FUND.

A doctor of Indian race, Dr. Alice Pennell, is a member of the Council of the Association and also a member of the Selection Committee for the Women's Medical Service. No Indian doctor has been appointed to the Executive Committee. There is only one elected member on the Executive Committee. The present elected member is Lady Bhore.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 770, asked by Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah on the 22nd August, 1934.

PROVISION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES AND POLICE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE AREA NEAR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

(a) and (d). A Sub-Assistant Surgeon from the Willingdon Hospital attends a dispensary which has been opened in one of the press quarters by the New Delhi Municipal Committee for one hour every morning and arrangements are being made to extend his term of duty there to two hours in the morning. A compounder is on duty at this dispensary for about three hours in the morning and an hour in the evening. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon can also be summoned by telephone from the Willingdon Hospital in emergencies.

As regards the police arrangements, I understand that a police patrol visits the press quarters every night. Two police stations are within easy reach of the quarters. A proposal to have the area patrolled both by day and night is under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

Government consider that the local authorities are taking adequate steps in regard to the medical and police needs of the locality.

(b) Two bungalows and 333 quarters are occupied by the Press staff. The number of new quarters built on the Minto and the Circular Roads is 627.

(c) The Willingdon Hospital is about 1½ miles away from the quarters. The nearest police stations are at Faiz Bazar and at Hauz Qazi, approximately three quarters of a mile and half a mile away from the quarters, respectively.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I lay on the table the report* of the Committee elected by the Legislative Assembly to examine the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement between India and the United Kingdom together with explanatory notes, minutes of dissent, etc., by certain Members.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : May I ask one question ? Will Government be pleased to circulate among the Members of the Assembly the additional statistics and statements laid before the Select Committee ? Will they be available for us as well ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I am not in a position to say. I do not know whether we have a record of all,—I think we have,—but I shall certainly try to make them available to the Members of the House if that is possible.

*Printed separately and circulated to Honourable Members.

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : But this is surely given in an appendix to the majority report.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not know if my Honourable friend is referring to anything which is not there.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I think it will be difficult for us to understand the recommendations unless we know all the facts on which the recommendations are based.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : If my Honourable friend will read the reports and the minutes of dissent, I think he will find that all the information necessary to enable him to come to a final decision is probably there. But if he wants anything in addition to that, I shall be happy to supply it to him.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT RULES.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I lay on the table the amendments to the Ottawa Trade Agreement Rules, 1932.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

NOTIFICATION.

TARIFFS.

Simla, the 18th August, 1934.

No. 780-T. (11)32.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (3-B) of section 3 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (VIII of 1894), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Ottawa Trade Agreement Rules, 1932, namely :—

In the third Schedule to the said Rules, to the list of countries specified in the second column against the entry "Rum" in the first column thereof, the following shall be added, namely :—

"Leeward Islands, i.e., Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

Mauritius.

Trinidad.

Windward Islands, i.e., Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent."

T. A. STEWART,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

THE GERMAN EXCHANGE POSITION.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I regret that the information so far available to the Government of India does not enable me to answer categorically all the specific questions put by Mr. Neogy. I shall, however, set out as fully as I can the facts in respect of the German exchange position so far as we know them.

Towards the end of 1933, the trend of the German trade balance gave the German Government grave cause for anxiety. In the first quarter of 1934 the situation worsened and what had been a favourable balance had been converted by the end of March into an unfavourable

balance of 54 million marks. This was due, I am informed, to exceptionally large importations of raw materials and action was at once taken, in two ways, to protect the Reichmark from disaster. In the first place, imports of raw materials from abroad were strictly controlled and, in the second place, the amount of foreign exchange available for the finance of imports was further restricted. Up to the 1st of March, 1934, the amount of foreign exchange available for such finance was 50 per cent. of the average requirements of 1931. Since then the increasing difficulties of the exchange situation have necessitated progressively stricter measures of control. From the 1st March the percentage was reduced to 45 ; from the 1st April, to 35 ; from 1st May, to 25 ; from 1st June, to 10, and finally from the 1st of August to five per cent. of the basic figure. So great has become, in the view of the German Government, the necessity for strict control that the apportionment of foreign exchange for the financing of imports is arranged by the Reichbank from day to day, so that out-goings may never exceed incomings. It is inevitable that such drastic restrictions—which Germany regards as essential to protect her currency from disaster—must tend to hamper her foreign trade and to affect adversely her imports from India as from other countries. (I may add at this juncture that the German exchange restrictions are not directed against India alone.) The only specific complaints against the operation of these restrictions which have so far been received by us—and that very recently—have been (1) from a firm of Madras tanners, (2) from a sports requisites exporter in Sialkot, and (3) from a turpentine exporter in the United Provinces. It is reported also that the fur exporters of the Punjab have been adversely affected. Our more important exports, however, such as cotton, jute, rice, hides and skins and oilseeds do not yet appear to have been affected.

The Government of India have, however, been watching the course of Indo-German trade with some care, and when two months ago, it was suggested that Germany in defence of her exchange position intended to restrict the imports of Indian coffee into Germany with effect from the 1st of July, a very strong protest was made against such action by Germany which we have reason to believe has proved successful, at least for the time being. Again, more recently, immediately on receipt of information that our export trade in tanned hides and skins was threatened, the Government of India got into touch by cable with their Trade Commissioner in Hamburg asking for a full report on the circumstances adversely affecting India's export trade. He has been asked to report further whether any other countries enjoy more favourable treatment in respect of foreign exchange than India. The Trade Commissioner has not yet been able to give us information as to the nature of the agreements said to have been concluded by Germany with other countries, but he has confirmed what we understood to be the case that the importer of tanned hides and skins into Germany is afforded the same exchange facilities as the importer of other commodities.

The Government of India is also in communication with His Majesty's Government as regards the nature of the agreement which is said to have been concluded between the United Kingdom and Germany on the 10th of this month and have asked them to elucidate the position of India in relation to that agreement. They have also

[Sir Joseph Bhole.]

asked for full information as to the nature of the exemptions, if any, from exchange restrictions which are enjoyed by other countries, and if on receipt of the desired information it should appear that there is discrimination of any kind against India, the Government of India will do all in their power to have such discrimination removed and to place Indian exporters on equal footing with traders in other countries. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association : Indian Commerce) : Are Government in a position to give any information as to what has happened regarding the transactions which took place before the exchange control became effective ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : No : as regards that point also we shall ask for detailed information.

Mr. H. P. Mody : When a matter of such importance affecting our trade and commerce with a foreign country takes place, is it not the business of the Trade Commissioner to put himself in touch with commercial organisations throughout this country with a view to warning everybody ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : I think that would naturally be done, but one explanation, I should say, is that events have marched so rapidly that he was probably unable to take the step suggested by my Honourable friend.

Mr. H. P. Mody : In view of the fact that more information may be filtering through, and more steps may be taken in Germany, will the Government of India themselves undertake to communicate whatever they learn to the various organisations throughout the country ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : I have already given to the House the fullest possible statement of the information in possession of the Government of India ; but we shall certainly from time to time try to make available to the trade and commercial community any information that we are in receipt of and which may be of value and importance to them.

Sir Abdur Rahim (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : I understood the Honourable the Commerce Member to say in one place that the hides and skins import into Germany has not been affected, but in another part I thought he said it might be affected ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : May I explain that the distinction I drew was between dressed hides and raw hides ? The trade in raw hides has so far apparently not been affected.

Sir Abdur Rahim : So far as undressed hides and skins are concerned, is it not a fact that very large quantities are now lying in London because of this exchange difficulty and other restrictions in Germany ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhole : We have received, to the best of my recollection, one representation which contains the substance of my Honourable friend's suggestion.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Have Government been able to ascertain whether it is founded in fact or not ?

Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : In view of the fact that dressed hides are generally exported

from Southern India, will Government be pleased to mend matters when they come to know that discrimination has been allowed there ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : If there is discrimination, I have already given the assurance that the Government will do everything in their power to try and remove such discriminatory treatment.

Sir Abdur Rahim : There has been an Anglo-German Agreement as my Honourable friend has told us : but can the Honourable Member tell us that that will in any way help India so far as Indian business is concerned or whether it excludes India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I ought to have explained to my Honourable friend and to the House that the first agreement which was entered into between the United Kingdom and Germany had reference to the questions of securing payment of interest on the Dawes Loan. In respect of that, so far as Indian nationals are concerned, their position, I understand is fully safeguarded. Later on, I understand that there was another agreement which dealt with commercial arrangements. In regard to that we have had no information. It is possible that the papers in connection therewith are now on their way out, but telegraphic reference has been made to the United Kingdom and to His Majesty's Government asking what the position of India is so far as that agreement is concerned.

Mr. H. P. Mody : Considering the severe restrictions that have been imposed upon Indian trade with Germany, do the Government of India think it desirable that there should be a free flow of German goods into this country ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I am not in a position to commit the Government of India with regard to this matter. It is a very delicate and important matter and it will require the most careful consideration.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Will Government consider whether it may not be desirable to enter into separate agreements with Germany ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : My Honourable friend will, I hope, not press me on that point at the present moment ; we would like to ascertain the details of the position first, before we commit ourselves in that respect.

Sir Abdur Rahim : I simply want Government to consider the matter.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : We shall most certainly consider it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Has the attention of the Honourable Member not been drawn to the press report of the provisions of the Anglo-German exchange agreement, in article 3 of which it is laid down that a limited utilisation of the special account is provided in respect of, firstly, goods other than United Kingdom goods described in article 3, if it is proved that the German buyer of these goods had purchased like goods before January 1st, 1933, through a firm established in the United Kingdom and regularly dealing with the same, and, secondly, of goods produced or

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

manufactured in any British colony or overseas territory (any territory under British protection or any mandated territory in respect of which the mandate is exercised by the Government of the United Kingdom) ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : My Honourable friend was good enough to bring that to my notice the other day : we do not possess any official confirmation, but I have telegraphed for it from the United Kingdom ; and I can assure the Honourable Member that we are fully seized of the importance of this matter and we will do all we can to see that the position is safeguarded as far as India is concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Has the Honourable Member's attention also been drawn to a Reuter's telegram that appeared in this morning's papers in which it is stated among other things that Germany is pursuing undaunted her new policy of buying only what she is capable of paying for, and that this control will become even more strict when, on the expiration of current contracts, foreign currencies will be released by the Reichsbank only within the limits of the incoming currencies ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I have seen that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Has the Honourable Member's attention also been drawn to the last portion of this message which refers to the likelihood of encouragement of intensive production of substitute raw material ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : Yes, I have also noted that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is the Honourable Member alive to the seriousness of this threat and is the Honourable Member going to consider what steps Government should take to obviate this situation ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : I do not think that we ought to regard that in the nature of a threat ; it is probably a measure of self-defence so far as Germany is concerned. I cannot anticipate the possible action that the Government of India may take. I can only reiterate the assurance that I have given to the House and to my Honourable friend that we shall do everything in our power to see that Indian trade is safeguarded so far as Germany is concerned : I am afraid I cannot go beyond that at present.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : On what information is my Honourable friend's statement to the effect that the more important exports from India have not been affected by these restrictions based, having regard to the general character of the restrictions themselves ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : We have in the first place received no complaints from the trades concerned ; and we have no doubt that, had there been any such difficulty as my Honourable friend suggested, knowing the trade as we do, we should most certainly have received at the earliest possible moment some complaint in the matter. In the second place, we have received from our Trade Commissioner no information in regard to these main items of export.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT.

CIVIL.

EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The House will now resume discussion on the Demand for Supplementary grant.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Firhut Division : Muhammadan) : Sir, the opposition to the scheme of transfer of the Agricultural Research Institute from Pusa to Delhi is not a faked one ; it is real and genuine, and that is the reason why I lay so much stress on this. The main objection that is raised to Pusa is the ill-adaptability of the place. I have considered this question from all points of view, and I find that this ground is not at all justified. First of all, I presume that the authors of the scheme, when they wanted to establish an institute in India, must have taken into consideration all relevant facts in the matter, and, after due enquiry, would have spotted this place in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the purpose of locating the institute. My intimate knowledge of the place confirms me in my belief that that was the finest place they could lay their hands upon at that time. I believe that at that time the Englishmen were desirous of having some suitable place where agricultural research could be carried on and profitable results obtained, and for that reason they could find no better place in those days than the one at Pusa. This choice of their was justified, I should think, by subsequent events. I believe I am perfectly right in saying that the adaptability or otherwise of Pusa for an agricultural research institute has never been denied by any student of agricultural research. We have never heard of any student complaining that the place is unsuited for this great task. The complaints that have been made, as it appears from the replies of the Honourable Member in charge of this subject, have come from the Directors of the Institute, from high officials who have difficulty in visiting the place. I believe, so far as my knowledge goes, the research students have done their work at Pusa wonderfully well, and they find the place an ideal one for an undertaking of that nature. During the last 32 years, the institute has been able to produce good results from which those who are real agriculturists have derived manifold advantages. It is for that reason that the intelligent planters of that part of the country have spoken so highly of the working of this institute at Pusa, and it is for that reason that they have raised a protest against the transfer of the research institute from that place. They have got no permanent interest there and so they cannot be accused of being partial ; they are men who look to the material side of it, the utility of the institute, and their protest in this matter is due to the fact that they have found it very useful during the last 32 years for the purpose for which it was established. I have quoted the planters in this respect, but I know for certain that many of us who are really interested in scientific Agricultural research have found the work at Pusa quite efficient in all respects. In fairness to the work done at Pusa, I think that Government should gratefully acknowledge the adaptability of Pusa for carrying on such hard and useful work. The result was produced by a combination of many forces. Climatic condi-

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

tion was the first requirement of an institution of this nature. 'If an institution of this kind was not placed in a climate which was favourable to the hard mental work that was required of the students it would have proved a failure. I think that everybody concerned will testify to the fact that the climate of Pusa is ideal in respect of agricultural research. The climate is not extreme ; it is not so hot in the summer, and not so cold in the winter ; and Honourable Members very well know that Delhi will present a contrast to it. Delhi will be the worst place for the summer and I should think not very comfortable in the winter. In both seasons students of agricultural research will find the climate of Delhi unsuited to their task. There is no truth in the statement that the soils at Pusa are in any way undesirable for carrying on research work of any description, whatsoever.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, quoted yesterday from the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture to show that the soil of the place has not been condemned by those great authorities. If they had had an opportunity of seeing the suburb in Delhi where it is going to be transferred, they would have declared it condemnable. I have no doubt that Honourable Members, after they have experience of the institute at Delhi some time after, will miss Pusa very much. In fact, as I find it, it has become a garden of 1,600 acres of land. I can very appropriately describe it as the Eden garden of agriculturists of India. (Hear, hear.) There is a block of 1,600 acres—a very large tract which has been cultivated with the sole object of making it fit for agricultural research. It has been turned into a veritable garden during these 32 years of hard work.

(Interruption by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.)

My friend, Dr. Ziauddin, has his own objection that it is in a place where nobody can see what is going on. But I would reserve that subject to a later stage. I have got that point in view and I shall tell my friend that his proverb does not apply to this case. I think that the past efforts of the Government of India and the students of agricultural research throughout India have made Pusa, so to say the least, the agricultural capital of India ; just as there are political capital, commercial capital and industrial capital. Pusa is the agricultural capital. My difficulty in its transfer is not because it is in the Province of Bihar from which I come, but my trouble is that the very principle on which it is going to be transferred from Pusa is unsound, and will, in future, prove to be so unsound that they will have to rue the day of transfer. If the commercial capital of India, which is Calcutta, were to be taken away from that place and located somewhere else according to the whim of the Government of India, what would be the state of mind of the people there. I do not think any European dealing in commerce in Bengal would like the commercial capital removed from Calcutta to some other place which is centrally situated.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : May I ask my Honourable friend what is the population of the agricultural capital of India ? (Laughter.)

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I did not think that my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, would lay so much stress on the population of Pusa.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The population of the garden of Eden consisted only of Adam and Eve. (Laughter.)

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : And the Serpent.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Pusa is indeed a place with a few men who are devoted to research in agricultural matters. It is not a question of a big population. It is really a place for a few and it is indeed not a place for millions. In a crowded place, you cannot carry on research as successfully as you can in a quiet place. It is impossible. Therefore, it is really the Eden garden inhabited by a few people. In the same way if the industrial capital of India, which is at present at Bombay was to be removed from there at the whim of the authorities, the House will agree that it will not be conducive to the industrial development of India. I believe Delhi to be the political capital. It is nothing more than that. My point is that Delhi has been chosen as the political capital. Whether it is good or bad, it is there. Our principle should not be to concentrate all the institutions of India in Delhi. That will not do. If we persist, the whole structure will certainly collapse. I firmly hold to the belief that agricultural research institutions should not be mixed up with politics. The removal of the institute to Delhi as a move to mix up the people in the research institute with the politics of Delhi, and I do not believe in that. In the very nature the two subjects, if not antagonistic to each other, are wide apart. Delhi is a place where we have got fluctuations of ideas every moment. The political centre of India cannot be expected to be calm and quiet. We have seen the fate of Delhi during the last so many centuries. It has been run over by ambitious powers in the world for their own aggrandizement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Chair would advise the Honourable Member to be brief, as there are a number of other speakers, and we have got one more subject to get through.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I think the Agricultural Research Institute should be located in a calmer atmosphere where people can think of nothing else but research work they have got in hand. That is not to be found in the suburb of Delhi. I have no doubt that Delhi will not provide the necessary facility of the discovery of the secrets of nature, which will help agriculturists. I believe that Sir George Schuster, if he had been here and had the opportunity of listening to the strong objections which we have, would have paused twice before giving his assent to this scheme, because he had the interest of the agriculturists at heart, and, therefore, he should have very patently seen that the object was not going to be fulfilled at Delhi. It will be a place not for the earnest students and professors engaged in research work but will be a place for gaiety : it will be a place for pleasure hunting. It will not be a place for that sort of great work which is expected of earnest students and professors. It

[Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi.]

would have been wiser if the research institute would have been allowed to remain where it is at present.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Then do you mean to imply that Delhi University should be abolished also ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I do not want anything to be abolished. What I find is that my friends in large numbers, of course, are against hearing anything in favour of the retention of the institute at Pusa. I am quite convinced of that ; and it is for that reason that I am trying to put on record my protest, very strong protest in this respect so that it may be read by the future generation (Hear, hear) and they may understand that a minority, sometimes, is more expressive of the opinion and needs of the people at large than a great majority (Hear, hear), and especially when we find that the great majority has seen some "Provincial" good in the transfer of the institute from Bihar and Orissa to Delhi.

Sir, I am afraid that while up till now the students of the institute have been devoting themselves to real and earnest research work in agriculture, henceforward those students will, in the vicinity of Delhi, think more of something else than research work. First of all, the choice will fall not on the students who have got a natural capacity in them but such choice would be guided more by patronage, to be distributed by politicians to their favourites. Now, to Pusa, I am sure, only those students have been going who had liked to devote serious attention to that kind of research work. At Delhi, it will be something like a pleasure trip for those who want to earn their living, and the results of the research will be very very poor indeed. Now I shall say only a few words about the point of inaccessibility. Sir, I strongly object that Pusa should be damned on incorrect grounds ; it is by no means inaccessible, it is as accessible as any other part of India today. There are railway communications from all sides, and, Sir, if railway communications are not enough to render a place accessible, what else can make a place accessible ? (Hear, hear.) One can, moreover, have aeroplane grounds there, and one can supplement the existing communications in that way too. As it is at present, distance does not count in these days so much. I am pretty sure that that distance does not count these days, and you have got so many sources of communication at your disposal. Therefore, to take the plea of inaccessibility is absolutely wrong.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran - Non-Muhammadan) : It is absurd.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Sir, if it is inaccessible, then I think many important places in India should be termed as inaccessible. One word now about the earthquake. The excuse is taken that the situation has been changed on account of the earthquake. I find that other more important institutions than the research institute at Pusa are located in Bihar and Orissa. At Patna we have got that big High Court, which has also suffered owing to the earthquake, but it has been repaired, and in the same way, why cannot the Pusa Institute also be repaired ? For instance, Jamalpur has also suffered very

heavily from the earthquake. It is, I think, many many times more affected than the building at Pusa, but everything else is going to be repaired except this institute at Pusa.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Do not mention Jamalpur, as they might take that away also ! (Laughter.)

Mr. P. B. Rau (Financial Commissioner : Railways) : We are moving some workshops from Lucknow to Jamalpur.

An Honourable Member : By way of compensation ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : But we object to that as well.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : But my point was that the earthquake should not be put forward as an excuse for removing the Pusa Institute to Delhi.

I have considered this matter very seriously in all respects, and I find that the scheme of the Government of India is absolutely unsound, and they will have to repent in future, for helping to destroy all that had been done at Pusa during the last thirty-two years by so many devoted people. It is a sort of suicidal step the Government of India are taking for the agriculturists and, therefore, I very strongly oppose this scheme of transfer. (Applause.)

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend, Babu Gaya Prasad Singh, on the very able manner in which he tried to plough the sands on the seashore whereby he went on giving out what he considered to be his arguments. Sir, it is perfectly true that if it was an all-India question, Provincial and parochial patriotism should not find a place, but is the question of the establishment of an agricultural institute an all-India question ? Look at the Report of the Royal Commission. They say that the conditions differ in India from Province to Province, from district to district and as between various portions in the same district. So, however inaccessible a place might be, that plea would not do ; secondly, it has been our contention from the beginning that each Province, if not sub-Province, must have its own research institute. Supposing this is an all-India question, what is the position ? The question was viewed notably by a writer in the *Times of India* as if it was a sight-seeing matter and that persons who come to India for sight-seeing must reconcile themselves to the long distances which we have in India, and that, therefore, they must be reconciled to inaccessibility. Nor are we concerned with the difficulty of an official conveniently coming and going—by saying which, unfortunately, my friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, has completely given his case away ! He said—officials do not go there because of the difficulty of access. That is what I complain of ! If officials who are paid to do this duty find it difficult to go there and find it inaccessible in spite of all the arrangements, how much more then would the poor agriculturist suffer—I won't say an agriculturist like myself, because I know my friend, Mr. Mody, will jump up against me,—how much more would the poor agriculturist suffer in finding access to this place ? Sir, an experimental agricultural farm and research station is intended for the agriculturist, not for people with gloves and top hats, and if you have a research station, it must be located in a place where most people can go.

[**Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar.**]

My friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, has enunciated a very nice proposition. He says that we should not bring to bear the Provincial patriotism on this question. When I referred to the question of the inaccessibility, he immediately turned round towards me and said : "What about Coimbatore ?" My friend does not know that long before Pusa came into existence, Coimbatore had an agricultural college. Originally it was at Saidaput and afterwards Government transferred it to Coimbatore. The research station with sugar-cane came into existence later. My friend thought that that research station was no good at all. On the other hand, the fact is, Sir, that experiment after experiment was conducted regarding sugar-cane, and if my friend is interested in sugar-cane cultivation, he should know that the best strains of sugar-cane are now obtainable from Coimbatore and the largest quantity of sugar is contained in them. That is the result of the research station at Coimbatore. Now, what is the result of the Pusa Institute ? Sir, rice is one of the largest, if not the largest, product of India and I have no statistics to show whether wheat is better than rice. But I do claim that the majority produce of India is rice. May I ask my friend what have these people in Pusa done about rice ? I seem to have read somewhere—I do not know whether this fact is mentioned in the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Agriculture—that the soil of Pusa was not particularly good for rice cultivation and for other experiments. But they say that the soil is so fertile that everything can grow there. My Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafce Daoodi, waxed eloquent for the garden that this desert has been converted into. I was immediately reminded of another garden which was very good in which, unfortunately, there was disobedience. I hope it is not that garden that my friend was talking of. However, whether the desert of Bihar has become a garden or not, I challenge my friend and anybody in this House to point out what good have these gentlemen done for us, the rice cultivators. Did they improve the strain ? Did they find out other kinds of paddy which could grow under various conditions ? Sir, I do not care whether the Agricultural Institute is in Pusa or anywhere else. I hope Delhi is equally good. I know that some of these experts are very much possessed of the idea of their selection. For instance, when there was a scarcity of water supply in Secunderabad, the Government of India engineers came and selected a spot which the villagers swore would never be useful for water supply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Today is Friday, and the Chair must adjourn the House in another three minutes.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachaiar : I shall finish, Sir, in three minutes.

Of course, the engineers know better. They acquired a piece of land and an annual contribution of Rs. 50,000 is made for the acquisition of this land. The result has been that for three years there was good supply of water and in the fourth year it became absolutely dry. I hope the present scheme is not going to be like that. I want that this scheme should be carefully investigated and examined and the result made known to this House. Those gentlemen who made this investigation ought to have found out that salt water is not good for the improvement

of agriculture. Anyone, who knows even something about agriculture, would never agree to go to a place where there is brackish water. Therefore, I submit that all these considerations did not weigh with them as they ought to have done. Then you have got the earthquake which has spoilt the whole thing and they have got to put up new buildings. Consequently, I think the Government of India was well advised to remove the Institute from there, and, therefore, I strongly support this motion. Only I will ask your permission, Sir, to say one thing. Bihar has already been afflicted with this earthquake and now she is on the brink of a trouble due to huge floods. I hope God will take mercy upon this Province and it will not have to suffer too much on account of the extraordinary flood that we are experiencing in Bihar. But I do not know whether the Pusa Institute should be there. After all, they had a generation and each generation must decide things for itself. Therefore, I strongly support this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : After lunch the Chair proposes to give only ten minutes to each speaker.

Some Honourable Members : Five minutes for each speaker will be enough.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Yes, five minutes would be better.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Khan Bahadur H. M. Wilayatullah (Central Provinces : Muhammadan) : Sir, I am in favour of the proposal that the Research Institute at Pusa should be transferred to a place in the neighbourhood of Delhi. Sir, India is an agricultural country and it is very necessary that the Agricultural Research Institute should be located in such a place that it will be easily accessible to all and be visited by a large number of persons. It was a mistake in the beginning to locate the Institute in a remote and far-off place like Pusa. Nobody would like to go to Pusa unless he makes a special effort for it. One cannot combine a visit to Pusa with a visit to the important cities of India. A very large number of people come to Delhi in order to see it along with the other important cities of Northern India, they will find it very convenient to pay a visit to the Agricultural Research Institute and those among them that are interested in agriculture will learn several things from the Institute. I cannot understand why there should still be some Honourable Members in this House who advocate that, even after the earthquake, when there has been considerable damage to the buildings there, that we should spend a large amount of money in renovating those buildings and let this opportunity slip of shifting that Institute from Pusa to Delhi. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which is expected to exercise direct control and supervision over the Pusa Institute, is always at Delhi and Simla. Pusa is so far away that the Imperial Council of Agricultural

[Khan Bahadur H. M. Wilayatullah.]

Research cannot exercise that effective control and supervision from here which is necessary. Thus, in my opinion, this is a very good opportunity of shifting the Institute from Pusa to a place in the neighbourhood of Delhi. I am not convinced at all by the arguments which have been advanced by my Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi, and others. I think they look at the question only from the Provincial point of view. It is an all-India question and I have no hesitation in saying that this is the best opportunity and that it will be in the interest of the Institute itself that it should be transferred from Pusa to Delhi. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I will strictly follow the dictum propounded by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, when he said that we must look at this question from an all-India point of view and that we should eschew all Provincial jealousies. My Honourable friend said that this question is raised because of the brain wave of some Member of Government, but he has completely forgotten the history that lay behind this question. This question is as old as the time when the unfortunate decision was taken by Lord Curzon to have the Institute located at Pusa. As my Honourable friend rightly pointed out it was a mere accident that the Institute was located at Pusa, because there happened to be at the time an extensive plot of ground ready at hand for the Government and so they immediately established that Institute at Pusa. This question is a very old one. At the time of the enquiry by the Royal Commission on Agriculture many witnesses deposed that that place was not good for carrying on useful work of the Institute. We find from the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture which my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, praises as the Bible of Indian Agricultural problems, in page 64 the following :

“ In paragraph 40 above, we have pointed out that Pusa is not an ideal site for a central research institution for all India. It is not surprising, therefore, that it has been urged before us that much of the work carried on there is of little or no value to the tropical regions of peninsular India or to the vast agricultural tracts of the North West.”

Further on, they state :

“ It must be admitted that there are many fundamental problems especially in relation to the crops grown in tropical India for work on which Pusa is not a very suitable centre.”

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will you kindly read the next sentence.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : Yes, I will come to that later on. I will also adduce reasons why they came to the conclusion that Pusa Institute is not to be transferred. It is because they allege, the Government have spent large sums of money on buildings and other things and that is why they were not in favour of transferring the Institute. Well, Sir, as I said this question is not a new one but a very old one. My Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi, said that it is a misnomer to say that Pusa is not accessible, and said that it is very near the railway station and so on. Here again I will simply refer to what the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture has to say with regard to its accessibility. On page 45, the report says :

“ The choice of Pusa as a site for an all-India Research Institute was, as we have seen, mainly determined by the fact that a large Government estate happened to

be available for the purpose. An ideal site for a central research institute for all India was doubtless impossible of attainment but we cannot but regard it as a matter of regret that the site actually selected was one six miles away from a railway station, in an out-of-the-way district to which access from most parts of India can only be obtained by a river crossing, and from all parts by a somewhat tedious railway journey."

Sir, it is clear from this that the place is very inaccessible. We might here ask the question how this inaccessibility has affected the working of the Pusa Institute. It has affected the utility of the institute in more than one way. It is elicited from the evidence before the Royal Commission on Agriculture that on account of its inaccessibility, many of the best and expert men would not accept appointments at Pusa Institute, so much so that it has lost its importance and it has become a second rate institution. I do not say so, Sir, without proper evidence and I will refer to the evidence of Dr. Clouston, who was the Director of the Institute and he said when he was examined before the Royal Commission.

This is what he says in his evidence :

" Q.—There is a serious risk that the Pusa staff might become somewhat second-rate ?—Undoubtedly it will.

Does that tend to strengthen the position of Pusa as a centre for Imperial research ?—No.

What other reasons can you mention as preventing officers going to Pusa ?—I have mentioned them ; there is the question of pay and there is the question of being very isolated ; and there is the question of not having opportunities for touring and seeing what other workers are doing. I may add also that the climate from July till about the middle of October is not at all good ; it is not so good as it is in most provinces."

Sir, the Royal Commission also refer to the fact of the isolation of Pusa. They are very particular to emphasise the fact that the work of the central institute should be co-ordinated with the work that is carried on in other Provinces and that the scientific workers there should come in contact, not only with the scientific workers in other Provinces, but also with the intelligent common people who are interested in agriculture. And this isolation has affected the work of the Pusa Institute. This is what the report of the Agricultural Commission says in paragraph 64 :

" The co-ordination of the research work carried on in the various sections of a research institute is only a degree less important than that of co-ordinating the work of the institution as a whole with that of other research institutions. Work is apt to get into a groove. Barriers are apt to arise, especially when research institutions are located in remote places where the intellectual stimulus provided by intercourse with intelligent outside opinion, not necessarily of a scientific character, is absent."

Sir, the inaccessibility and isolation of the Institute has affected the work of the Institute in these important directions. My learned friend yesterday quoted a passage from this report saying that the soil at Pusa is good and the climate excellent. He has not read the other paragraph wherein they say that the soil is no doubt suitable for crops that are grown in sub-tropical climates, but it is not at all suitable for crops grown in tropical climates, for instance, rice, cotton, ground-nuts, cocoanuts and so many other tropical crops.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are cocoanuts grown in Delhi ?

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : And rice is grown in Delhi !

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : We have heard with patience the speech of my Honourable friend and I hope he will extend to me the same indulgence, especially as the time is short. If I had time I could have answered all my Honourable friend's points. Sir, I have just now read for his delectation that it is not possible to carry on any experiments at Pusa regarding the crops grown in tropical climates such as rice, *etc.* It is said that cotton could not be grown there even for experimental purposes. Therefore, since the research institute should subserve the whole of India, not cater only for a particular part of India, the institute at Pusa should be shifted elsewhere in order to widen the sphere of its usefulness. Then it is said that the soil is very fertile. The very fertility of the soil has its own limitations. There are vast tracts of land in India, specially in Southern India, where crops are grown by irrigation. On account of the high subsoil water level of the land at Pusa it is suitable to grow crops without the aid of irrigation. But for crops to be grown with the aid of irrigation that is not the proper place and hence, in that connection also, it is not very ideal place. Sir, my friends have said that Delhi is not a proper place and it cannot grow all the crops that are grown throughout India. The Royal Commission itself has clearly stated that you cannot find a single ideal place which will be suitable for experimental purposes, but we should select such a place which would be suitable as far as possible and practicable. And, as the Royal Commission have pointed out, the most essential thing that is required for this research work is contact with other research institutions and also contact with other men. That can be obtained in Delhi ; and it is pointed out that Delhi is a place where more varieties of crops can be grown than at Pusa.

My Honourable friend said that the Royal Commission did not recommend the removal of Pusa. But when they said that they should retain Pusa as the place for the research institute they were obsessed by the fact that there were a lot of magnificent buildings, and that the Government had invested a lot of money and hence it could not be transferred. But now the circumstances have completely changed. Now, after the havoc caused by the earthquake, the Government have to take a decision whether to retain this institute at Pusa after spending seven or ten lakhs of rupees for restoration of buildings and yet keep the institute in the zone of earthquakes or whether to take the time by the fore-lock and transfer it to some other convenient place and establish an institution so that it might serve a more useful purpose than it has been doing. Another thing of great importance to Southern India is that according to the evidence of Dr. Clouston before the Royal Commission, he recommended that there should be established another research institution somewhere in the Southern Presidency to carry on research work on crops such as rice which are grown in tropical climates and he has specially selected Coimbatore. After the Royal Commission report we find that Coimbatore has been selected by the Government for carrying on research work in sugar-cane,—research work of all-India importance. Further, Government have also started dairy research work at Bangalore, and so there is no difficulty in having research station at Coimbatore for carrying on research work in the matter of rice and other tropical products. Now, Sir, the one important question that was raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, is that in these days of economic depression we should not undertake such a big scheme

which requires the spending of 36 lakhs of rupees for the research institute. Sir, last year, over and over again, we were pressing Government to take up big irrigation works and other schemes of public utility so that they might give a stimulus to the purchasing power of the middle and lower classes. And, Sir, I submit that the amount spent for this purpose will be very useful in order to achieve that object. Sir, after all at present they have asked for seven lakhs of rupees of which four lakhs will be spent for the acquisition of land and so all the four lakhs will remain in India. With regard to the other three lakhs, they are intended to construct buildings and other things and the money spent on them will go to help the poorer people in raising their purchasing power. Sir, as the whole question of transfer of Pusa institute is reopened, I take this opportunity to press upon the Government the desirability to start one more research institute at Coimbatore in Southern India to carry on research work on tropical crops as recommended by Dr. Clouston. Sir, with these words I have great pleasure in supporting this motion.

Mr. F. W. Hockenhull (Assam : European) : Sir, rarely has a plain issue been so clouded, if not obscured, by irrelevant consideration as the question of the proposed removal of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research from Pusa to Delhi. Sentiment and Provincial considerations on the one hand, and central and local considerations on the other, have provided their arguments. Questions in this House, an Adjournment Motion in another place, not to mention the wide-spread campaign in the Press, all go to show what interest is taken in the Government of India's proposals, the main consideration of which, summed up in a word, is, or should be, "the betterment of agriculture in this country". No question so widely affects the vast majority of the people of this land, for, however far we progress in the development of industry, agriculture will always remain immeasurably the most important occupation of its people. Of recent times, the grave problems arising out of the depression in prices and the falling demand for primary commodities have been the subject of anxious consideration, not only of the Government of India, but also of Provincial Governments, and these problems are closely allied to the progressively efficient working of the various agricultural institutes of this country. In according the support of this Group to these proposals, I would say that they have examined them as a business proposition and given them its blessing. But we do make this stipulation, that we would ask the Honourable Member in charge to give us an undertaking that the original estimates shall not be exceeded. Speaking for myself as an agriculturist, I would go further and venture the expression that these proposals are such as the country cannot afford to go without. Let us then for a moment address ourselves to the real issue involved and ask a few questions, the first of which is :

Is the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research necessary ?

If so, is the Institute, as it exists at Pusa, calculated to confer upon Indian agriculture the benefits it has a right to expect ?

If not, are the proposals to remove the Institute to Delhi more likely to produce these benefits ?

First, then, is the question of necessity arising out of the development and material expansion of Provincial departments during the last fifteen

[Mr. F. W. Hockenhull.]

or twenty years and also the progress which has been made by individual industries. For example, the tea industry has shown its appreciation of the value of agricultural research by its policy of maintaining a strong scientific department of its own, which has become a permanent feature of the industry and has contributed in many ways to the lowering of costs and the raising of quality and yields. If, as I contend, the basis of all agricultural progress is research, and as agricultural development is so vital to the prosperity of India as a whole, it is difficult to see how the Central Government could divest itself of all responsibility for its welfare.

The functions of the Central Institute are somewhat different from Provincial organisations. The necessity for some co-ordinating body is apparent. Problems of an all-India character and others of a more difficult or extensive range can only be undertaken at a detached centre. Provincial departments will be the first to acknowledge the assistance they have received from the centre. Moreover, the experience of other countries, whose population is widely devoted to agriculture—the United States of America and Australia are examples which come readily to mind—confirms the view that, however valuable the local effort, the greatest benefit can only derive when coordinated with a central research institute. That brings us to the second of our questions, as to whether or not Pusa is conferring the maximum benefit on agriculture as a whole.

It would not be an unfair summary of the observations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture to say that the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research was at first an efficient machine yielding a reasonable dividend on the capital expenditure which it involved. But as time had gone on, it had proved less suited to the work which it was required to carry out, and one of its greatest failings was its isolation. When Pusa was first opened as a central research institute, it was the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in India which had an Inspector General of Agriculture, who was in a position to dictate to the Provincial agricultural departments the lines which they should follow. Progressive measures of decentralization had changed the position before 1914. With the reforms of 1919 decentralization was completed with the establishment of agriculture as a Provincial Transferred Subject. Henceforward Pusa was merely first among equals, relying no longer on authority but upon the excellence of its work. Gradually the connection between Pusa and the Provinces waned and in large measure this can be attributed to its inaccessibility. With the Council of Agricultural Research established at Delhi, the desirability and indeed the necessity of having an accessible institute near at hand became paramount, and it will offer facilities which Pusa never could afford. I would here stress the fact that there is no intention to underestimate the value of the work which has been achieved at Pusa. To do so would be as unfair as it would be inaccurate. But, setting aside the sentiment which must invariably play its part in these questions, the real issue surely must be whether or not Pusa is ever likely to attain the position it ought to hold, as the Mecca of agricultural research workers of this country. Considerations of a financial character alone prevented the Royal Commission from recommending that the work should be transferred to a more eligible site. Considerations which in the light of recent happenings—I refer to the earthquake damage and the relative fall in the value of money and labour—

may by no means be as serious as they were six years ago. It is hardly necessary to do more than mention the advantages which the Delhi site has over the existing one. It is more representative of large tracts in point of climate, soil, crops and irrigation. It is independent of any local administration. It is more central, not only in a physical but in a cultural sense, and it affords better facilities for live-stock experiments. One argument I must refer to which has an important bearing, and that is the break in continuity which this change might mean.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture consists of nine sections of which six are located at Pusa, viz., agricultural chemistry, agricultural bacteriology, economy, botany and plant-breeding, plant diseases, agricultural entomology and the agricultural section proper, which is concerned with the technique of field experiments, fertilizer trials and the like. The sugar-breeding station is located at Coimbatore, the Physiological Chemist and the Imperial Dairy Expert at Bangalore. Special reasons have determined the location of three sections in South India and these arrangements will not be disturbed by the transfer of six sections from Pusa to Delhi. Of the sections now at Pusa, there are only two which are seriously concerned with continuity of field experiments, viz., the Botanical section and the Agricultural section. In the case of the Botanical section, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research gave a grant some four years ago which enabled a sub-station to be established at Karnal, thus providing the Imperial Economic Botanist with a station in North-West India as well as one in the North-East. This was done with the object of remedying, as far as possible, one of the defects at Pusa pointed out by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. This duplication of breeding work at two centres has been successful and has improved the efficiency of the section. When the new institute is fully established at Delhi, there seems no reason why the Karnal sub-station should not be discontinued as a Botanical sub-station—the lands and buildings which are situated on the Imperial cattle breeding farm at Karnal being utilised for general agriculture as previously and a sub-station established at Pusa in the North-East by the retention there of the present botanical section which is of suitable area. Perhaps there could also be retained a small portion of the agricultural section, which adjoins the botanical section, including the permanent fertilizers experiments, and some other permanent field experiments. Such an arrangement would not mean any actual change in the annual expenditure of the institute since it would merely involve the transfer of the sub-station from Karnal to Pusa. Generally, I understand that the buildings which are involved have been left intact during the earthquake damage. No new buildings or equipment of any kind would, therefore, be necessary. Should a scheme of this character mature, it would effectively reduce any break in continuity due to the transfer.

I now come to the last point, a consideration of the cost of the scheme. We are most anxious to impress upon Government that the most careful scrutiny of the estimates may be undertaken so that supplementary grants may be entirely unnecessary. Expenditure will be mainly under three heads : (1) land, (2) buildings, and (3) equipment. Land acquisition represents almost a fixed amount. I would deprecate any sacrifice of equipment at the expense of overspending on buildings.

In conclusion, let me say that the amount involved is no mean sum, but when we consider that we are planning for many years ahead and

[Mr. F. W. Hoekenhull.]

that Indian agriculture is our particular concern, I think the House will agree that the object is a worthy one and should prove of lasting benefit to countless deserving agriculturists of this country. (Cheers.)

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Sir it is useless to speak on the merits of the subject at this stage because reasons and arguments are not of much use to the Government. When they have decided that now it is night, whatever arguments may be placed before them by the representatives of India that it is day, they will never admit that it is day. It is useless to tell them that conditions of the soil differ from Province to Province. It is useless to tell them that the Royal Commission on Agriculture as well has come to the same conclusion. It is useless to tell them that the difference in the soil and condition requires that the research institutions be located at different places. It is useless to place before them that the rainfall in Delhi is about 19 inches in the year while that at Pusa is about 49 inches a year. It is useless to tell them that only higher research work is actually done in the institute and that the agriculturists cannot be expected to go there to learn. It is also useless to tell them that the argument which was placed before the House by my Honourable friend, Mr. Wilayatullah, that Delhi will be a suitable place, because visitors can come more easily to see the place is irrelevant. It is useless to remind my Honourable friend and also to the Government that the institute is not a cinema to which people should be able to go easily. It is useless to tell my Honourable friend that some research has taken years and years. If a man visits the institute at Delhi, for a minute or two or even for an hour, it will not be of much use to him. It is useless to tell the Government that Simla is more inaccessible than Pusa and to ask them as to why they do not stop the exodus to Simla.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Reddi, has quoted from paragraph 66 of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture but he did not read the next sentence where they have suggested a remedy as well. The remedy they have suggested is :

“ It will be for the Council of Agricultural Research to determine how far the deficiencies of Pusa in this respect can be remedied by the establishment of small sub-stations.”

It is useless to remind him that this was the remedy suggested by the Royal Commission on Agriculture. It is useless to place these facts before the Government because they have already made up their mind.

I admit that the earthquake of January, 1934, has caused extensive damage to the buildings of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Pusa. That is the main reason why they have decided to transfer the Institute to Delhi. But I find that the estimate for repairing those buildings was about Rs. seven lakhs. It is useless to tell them that to save that amount of Rs. seven lakhs they have prepared a scheme costing Rs. 36 lakhs ! (Hear, hear.) This is the economy they practise in the Government of India !

However, Sir, they have decided to transfer the institute. I want to inform the Government that those agriculturists who are interested in rice growing do not like this transfer to Delhi. The Government seem to have forgotten that cocoanut and paddy cannot be grown in Delhi...

• **Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** : Or tobacco.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Nor tobacco. For cocoanut and paddy Pusa is the only suitable place.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not wish to take up much of my Honourable friend's time, because it is limited, but I must draw his attention to the fact that so far as rice is concerned, Pusa has never done any work on rice because the conditions there are not considered to be quite congenial.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : If Pusa has not carried on any experiments in paddy there can be no excuse. The Government must ask the Pusa men why no experiments in paddy were undertaken because there is 49 inches of water there and the climate and soil are quite suitable for paddy experiments. If my Honourable friend will study the statistics of the Province he will find that in the neighbourhood of that area a sufficient quantity of paddy is grown. In this connection, let me urge on the Government that they should lay great stress on research in paddy because about 59 per cent. of the total agricultural produce of the country is rice, and experiments in rice cannot be done properly in Delhi. I understand that the Government want to keep the botanical section in Pusa, and if so, the botanical section should be well-equipped, and the Pusa farm should be made to supply improved seeds to the agriculturists in Bihar and the adjacent provinces. The land should not be disposed of, rather it should be given to Bihar Government. I am afraid that this policy of the Government to centralise all departments in Delhi will not be liked by Indians. This and similar other institutes should be left to remain in those parts which are more suitable for the purposes they serve. I suggest to Government that the portion which is proposed to be left at Pusa should be well equipped and the Central Government should treat it as a sub-station at least and sufficient money should be spent in order to provide good seeds to the agriculturists and to have proper research work done for that area.

Sir Abdur Rahim : Sir, I find considerable feelings have been aroused over this question, but I must admit that I fail to understand the reason for it. I do not think,—and I want the representative of the Education Department in this House to tell me if I am wrong—that a research institute like that of Pusa is not meant to confer any special benefit on any particular Province. I do not think that the Province of Bihar and Orissa especially profits by the institute being located within the limits of that Province. I should like to ask those Honourable friends of mine who come from the United Provinces whether they really think that the transfer of the Institute to the United Provinces or Delhi would confer any particular benefit on that Province. I am perfectly sure that having regard to the scope and character of this institute the benefit which the Institute is likely to confer is of a character which may be shared and ought to be shared by all the Provinces of India. That being the position, I do hope that the Honourable Members from the different Provinces will not consider it a matter of Provincial patriotism, whether to oppose or to support proposed transfer. I think the Government will not disagree with me on this point. The point is perfectly plain.

Now, the real argument that has been advanced in favour of this proposal is that Pusa is inaccessible, and, therefore, we must transfer it

[Sir Aodur Rahim.]

to a place which will be more accessible to the public and to the officers of Government and other persons especially interested in the matter. I do not know how to regard this argument. But it does seem to me to come with very ill-grace from the mouth of the Government of India. The Government reside in Simla for nearly six months in the year.

Is it to be suggested that Simla is very accessible to the people of India for whose benefit the Government of India exists? Sir, if that were a valid argument, then I do say at once that the Government of India should, from next year, stop coming to Simla altogether and make its habitation in the plains. Take New Delhi. Is New Delhi itself very accessible? New Delhi has been founded for the location of the Government of India. We Members of the Assembly feel every day, when questions of great importance to the people are discussed in the Assembly, that we are discussing such questions in an atmosphere where no public opinion can penetrate. It is away from all centres where public opinion is strongest. Even from the City of Delhi itself I have noticed very few people come to New Delhi to watch the proceedings of the Assembly. Sir, having regard to the vast extent of the country, the question of accessibility or inaccessibility should not be emphasized too much. After all, what is the object of this institute? What is the work on which these professors are engaged? They are to carry on scientific investigation for the purpose of improving agriculture. I should have thought that, for purposes of scientific investigation, the thing that was most needed is absence of distractions, and, if I may say so without any offence, absence of official intervention. Nothing is more detrimental to research work of that character than official interference, and I say that, if I were engaged in research, the fewer the officials or other persons who are consumed with curiosity came and worried me, the better it would be for my work. From the point of view entirely of scientific research, I should say that it would be a mistake to bring Pusa near to Delhi and expose it to risk of too much interference on the part of officials and also from non-official visitors. It is all very well to talk in general terms about contact with this class of men or that class of men. But then you come to analyse the situation what is it that these professors of the Institute want? They want a proper laboratory, they want fertile fields with suitable soil to carry on their experiments. If they can get all these things, they may also want to know what other countries are doing in the matter and that could be ascertained from the literature of those other countries. I take it there is no difficulty on the part of these professors to have access to the latest researches in other countries. So far as India is concerned, I find from what is stated in the official memorandum that there are other scientists engaged in similar research, that conferences are sometimes held, and, therefore, the nearer Pusa is to Delhi the better will be the work turned out by Pusa. I for one entirely refuse to believe that the work of Pusa will be improved by bringing it into closer contact with the sort of officials and other persons who may like to have a look into what is going on. I heard from some of my friends in this House that they should like to know from time to time what work they are doing. I for one, if I am really interested in the work of the Institute, would not think for a moment of putting any sort of pressure on the persons engaged in research in an institute like this if you are going to improve its efficiency at all. I am

afraid you will, on the other hand, be really retrading and putting back valuable work. Sir, I for one do not believe in interfering with men who are engaged in research of this kind. The real question is, whether the soil and climate of Pusa are really such that we should be justified in removing the Institute from that place and locating it somewhere near Delhi. I take it that at the time the Institute was established at Pusa some investigation must have been made as to the suitability of the soil and climate of that place and I do not think I have yet heard that the soil and climate, for instance, of any place within the Province of Delhi will be more suited for the purposes of these experiments and research. (Hear. hear.) Can my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, who I am sure, has studied the subject with his usual care, tell us if he is in a position really to tell us with any assurance that the soil and climate of Pusa are less suitable for scientific research and agricultural experiments than of the place to which this institute is sought to be transferred ?

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, read out extracts
 3 P.M. from certain representations made by the poor peasants
 of the locality near Delhi whose land is going to be
 acquired. I think the House would like to be told by my Honourable friend, the Education Secretary, whether there is any foundation for those representations ; and I should also like the Government to take into consideration the fact that a very large number of persons are presumably going to be ousted from their holdings if large tracts of land are going to be acquired for this purpose. I dare say, and there is no doubt, compensation will under the law be paid to them ; but I am sure the Government realize that turning out large masses of cultivators from their land, even though accompanied by payment to them of some compensation, is not really helping them. Sir, the amount you give them will very soon disappear, and they will have no land left for purposes of cultivation ! That is another point, the most important question that has to be answered by the Government is this. Has Pusa so far done any valuable work or not ? It has been in existence for so long as the last thirty-one years. Is it the case of Government that during these thirty-one years the work done there has proved so unsatisfactory that you must move the Institute bodily to another place ? If, on the other hand, in point of fact, the work that has been carried on during all these thirty-one years has been satisfactory, if it really has made any valuable contribution towards the improvement of agriculture in this country, then I do think that on the merits, the proposed transfer is difficult to justify. During the thirty-one years this institute has been in operation, a vast deal of work has been done not only in the laboratory but also in the fields. They have been able, during this long period, to develop the soil so as to suit their experiments and research. All this has been done in the course of a period of thirty-one years, and now you are proposing to dislocate all this work by transferring the Institute to Delhi !

Sir, I do think it is a serious question for the Government to consider whether, by this dislocation, by this transfer, by uprooting the institute from the soil in which it has grown in spite of whatever difficulties there might have been,—I say in uprooting this institute which has established itself there the Government would be incurring a serious and grave responsibility indeed. I repeat that it is a serious and grave responsibility that the Government are incurring.

[Sir Abdur Rahim.]

If, in fact, as many Honourable Members in this House believe, the Pusa Institute really has been doing good work,—if that is so—then the Government must assure themselves, before transferring it to a place near Delhi, that it will really be able to do better work or more useful work in its new site. The Government are, I am afraid, only speculating. They are transferring an institute, which has been so well-established, to another place, to another climate, to a place where the soil will be different, where the surroundings will be different, where they will have to start everything anew : if they wish to take a step of that character, then, I say, the Government ought to produce before us absolutely definite evidence that, as a matter of fact, the soil and the climate of Delhi are more suited for work of the character which Pusa has been doing. Sir, I do not think that that is the case of the Government, or that such a case has been put forward. The only ground which has been put forward is that of inaccessibility. If as a matter of fact Pusa has not been doing any really valuable work, then I suggest that Government ought to shut it down, now that the earthquake has come to their rescue. Do not then go on building, do not spend any more money, but, if it has been doing good work, then let it go on where it is. I come now to what I think ought to be special concern of the Finance Member, and that is the expenditure that the Government will have to incur owing to this transfer. They will have to spend no less than Rs. 36 lakhs : and, I am sure, it is likely to go on increasing if this institute is transferred anywhere near Delhi. I do not know whether the Finance Member finds himself so flushed with money that he can say safely, in good conscience—“ go forward with a scheme like this and incur a loan of Rs. 36 lakhs for the purpose of expenditure on building a new institute ”. Sir, it is very easy, I take it, for the Government of India, to incur a loan. We know money is cheap now. But is that any justification,—unless you are satisfied that you are spending money on a good cause—to incur a loan of Rs. 36 lakhs and thus saddle the Government and the country with interest on that amount ? Sir, I am not in any way concerned with the Province of Bihar and I do not think, as I have said, that there is any question of Provincial patriotism or advantage involved. But I do think that, in times of financial stringency that we are passing through, a proposal like this, which involves an expenditure of thirty-six lakhs of rupees, should not be accepted by Government unless the Government is quite sure that there is an overwhelming case for it, a case the soundness of which cannot be doubted at all. I have given my best consideration to the subject and I do not believe that the Government is taking a wise step. They are taking a leap in the dark. Sir, Government generally accept whatever their experts tell them, but we know that experts very seldom agree. Every expert seems to think that his work alone is of value and is too apt to depreciate the work of others. Even if any experts have advised the Government, I do say, though I am a layman, that they are really speculating. Pusa might not have been an ideal site for an Institute like this, but it is too late now to go back. It has been there for 31 years and it has gone on and if it has done any valuable work, do not disturb the Institute at all. Sir, I do ask the Government to consider yet whether it is prudent on their part, especially in these difficult financial times, to take a step of this character and to speculate on what may be achieved if Pusa Institute is transferred somewhere near

Delhi. Sir, I know Government have practically decided the matter, but I still maintain that there are aspects of the question which ought to be seriously taken into consideration. I do not think that the argument of inaccessibility is a weighty argument in a matter of this nature.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I formed my opinion about the transfer of Pusa about 18 years ago when I was a member of the Calcutta University Commission. At that time I was travelling at the expense of the Government and was entitled to double first-class and halting allowances. I tried for 18 months to visit Pusa, but, unfortunately, I could never spare a week in order to be able to visit this important place. One of my colleagues, the late Professor Gregory, was the only person in the Commission who could visit Pusa and he came forward with the report that that was the most unsuitable place for an institute of that type. Sir, my friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, calls it an Eden garden of India. But as the Urdu saying goes : *Jangal men mor nacha kis ne dekha*. If that place is really an Eden garden, it must be accessible to a large number of persons. Sir, there are two classes of persons who are really opposing it and it is just these two classes to whom this transfer will benefit the most. The one class is the people of Bihar and the other class are the villagers where this Institute is going to be placed. The people of Bihar do not realise that they have no teaching agricultural institution, because the Institute at Pusa does not teach at all. So, they are practically deprived of any teaching institution in agriculture. The moment this Institute is transferred, they will soon have a teaching college in Bihar.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : No, no.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : My Honourable friend is so hopeless of his Government that he does not expect a teaching institution from them. I am not. The second class of people who will be affected by this transfer are the villagers of the place where this Institute will be established ; they will be able to get a definite employment in this Institute. Persons who have got a fixed income are better off in these days of depression than the people who are engaged in professions without fixed income. Sir, Pusa had been selected because of two incidents which happened accidentally to be simultaneous or synchronous. The first incident was that in 1903, a valuable Government property suddenly became available and the second incident was that £30,000 were given by a benefactor to Lord Curzon. These two things happened at the same time, otherwise there is no certain reason for selecting Pusa as the seat of agricultural research. Sir, the time of Diogenese has now gone. He could afford to do his research work in a tub, but now in these days of specialisation scientists like to live close to each other and to be in touch with the researches of each other. It is a great stimulus if one scientist knows what is the work going on in an allied subject done by the other scientist. Doubts were expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and he asked us to tell him what is now being done at Pusa ? I would have myself enlightened the House had it been easily accessible. Had the Institute been close to Delhi, I would have often visited and mentioned on the floor of the House what work was being done there and whether they are or they are not wasting public money. Here, in Delhi, we have frequent meetings to attend which scientists come from

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

all parts of India, such as University Conferences ; meetings of the 'Agricultural Research. These scientists can have opportunities to see what is being done here. They themselves will be benefited and probably they will be able to tell the professors of the Institute what other people are doing. In this age constant touch of the scientists with each other is considered to be exceedingly important and I may say indispensable. Therefore, this reason in itself is sufficient enough to locate the Institute in a place which is easily accessible to the scientists so that they may derive benefit from the researches carried on in the Institute.

Sir, this is my last speech in the present Assembly, and, before I sit down, I would like to detain the House for two or three minutes more. In the first place, I wish good-luck to all my colleagues in the next Assembly. (Applause.) I hope they will all be returned. (A voice : "All !") I wish good-luck to all in election. Sir, we have established one good tradition in this Assembly which is very valuable. We often abuse each other and we often use parliamentary language to each other, but the moment we go to the Lobby, we are as good friends as two persons can ever be. (Applause.) Our tradition is similar to the tradition of legal practitioners. When they go to the Bar Library, they forget all that they had been talking in the Court. Sir, coming to the Members on the Treasury Benches, there is nothing which we could say and we left unsaid, but, in spite of all that, our relations with Members on the Treasury Benches have been very friendly and very cordial and they have always helped us in every possible manner. They were always willing to place at our disposal all the facts and the materials on every subject although they knew that they would be used against them. We are much obliged to them for their kindness. We, on this side of the House, thank you, Sir, more particularly for the consideration and sympathy which you have shown to the individual Members, and to the Parties in the Assembly. (Continued Applause.) Of course, there have been occasions when we were placed in difficult positions and it was due to your tact, ability and courtesy which helped us to get out of those difficulties. I do not think there is any Member, either on this side of the House or on the other, who can have any complaint against your fair treatment, though some of the Rulings given by you did not suit particular individuals some of them did not suit me. Still nobody can say that the Rulings have been unfair. Sir, we are carrying with us very good recollections of the manner in which you conducted the proceedings of this House. (Applause.) I should not omit to mention the good work of our Secretariat which is as efficient as any Secretariat could be. I also thank the staff of the Assembly Department who always gave us their willing assistance. They readily supplied us all the materials we required on a particular topic. We have been receiving ungrudging help from every individual from the Secretary down to the lowest. I wish *au revoir* to all.

Mr. B. V. Jadhav (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I shall not take much of the time of the House, but I have to point out that when the Pusa Institute was first started 31 years ago, the whole of the Agriculture Department was under the Government of India and the Provinces had not much to boast of. But for the last 20 years there has been decentralisation and each Province has been developing its own Agriculture Department and these Departments have been conducting researches in their own Provinces with regard to the crops that are suitable

to the soil and the climate of that place. Madras, for instance, has developed the sugarcane research and they must have a research for their particular crop, the rice crop. In the same way, Bombay has been experimenting in sugar-cane, in tobacco, in rice and in some other commodities. It is well-known that a large portion of Bombay is exposed to famine conditions and now-a-days experiments are being carried on there to find means of raising crops on very scanty rainfalls. In the same way, research has been going on in other parts of the country, and, therefore, it is absolutely necessary, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, that all these research workers should have an opportunity of coming together and consulting each other. This necessity was not felt when Pusa was first selected as a matter of accident, as has been stated, as the central place for research. But now matters have changed a great deal and the Royal Commission on Agriculture has given its emphatic opinion that Pusa was not suited, but that Commission had to take into count an accomplished fact, and, therefore, the Commission did not recommend the removal of the Institute at a great cost. But, now the calamity of this earthquake has also visited Pusa and had done considerable damage to the buildings. Therefore, the question now before the Government has been whether to sink another seven or eight lakhs for the repairs of the buildings and also to run the risk of another earthquake damaging further the damaged buildings and to have been under the constant fear of having to spend larger and larger amount on the repairs of the buildings there or to remove the Institute out of the earthquake zone at this time. The Government, I think, have taken a correct decision, having come to the conclusion that it is much better from every consideration to remove the Research Institute from Pusa to the neighbourhood of Delhi. As I have pointed out, Delhi being more accessible, the research workers of all the Provinces in the country may come together and may come to know what has been going on in other parts of the country in a particular research question. As for the inaccessibility of Pusa, I need not say much, but I shall say that from my personal experience that I had when I visited the Pusa Institute in 1930, I found that the journey was a very inconvenient one. My journey was, of course, done at Government expense, but, even if I had another opportunity to do so, I would not take advantage of it and would avoid the journey altogether. It is a very inconvenient place, and I think that the same would be the experience of the majority of persons who had the fortune or misfortune to go there.

A great point was sought to be made of the fact that the Government of India took the sanction of the Secretary of State before consulting the Standing Finance Committee. I do not think that the Government of India took an improper step. It is now the policy to move the centre of gravity from London to Delhi. Sooner or later, India is to get complete financial autonomy and then all these questions will be decided without reference to the Secretary of State. Now, Sir, an opportunity has been given to the Standing Finance Committee and also to this House to decide whether the Institute should be removed from Pusa to Delhi and the Standing Finance Committee have given an emphatic decision that it should be removed. Therefore, I think the Government have done the right thing in taking the sanction of the Secretary of State beforehand ; because it would, I think, be awkward to take the sanction of the Secretary of State after the decision of this House has been ascertained. Then it would have meant that the

[Mr. B. V. Jadhav.]

Secretary of State had the power to revise the decision of this House. But in the present case, I take it that this House has got the last word to say and the decision of the House will determine the matter whether the Institute should be removed to Delhi or not.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, after the very eloquent speech of my Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, it is not necessary for me to emphasize that there is a very strong opinion in the Province of Bengal that the transfer of the Research Institute should not be effected. When this great institution was first started, Pusa formed part of Bengal and it is natural that the people of Bengal should feel when this institution is sought to be transferred to Delhi. I think there is some misapprehension on this question. So far as higher research in agriculture is concerned, if the authorities or the experts think that it will be of greater use by transferring the Institute to a central place, I think there would not have been so much difference of opinion if people are assured that the agricultural sub-station and other works will be continued in that Province. We in Bengal think that Pusa being at a central place in India there may be experiments conducted not only in wheat and sugar-cane but also in paddy and tobacco and other crops which are prevalent in Central and Southern India. We should like to be assured that the facilities for research in these crops will not be in any way impeded if only the higher research section is transferred from Pusa to Delhi. The other point is that Government will stick to their promise that the expenditure will never exceed 36 lakhs which in itself is a very big amount.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Sir, when my Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, launched his attack on the proposals of the Government yesterday, he said that this issue must be judged not from the point of view of any Province but from the point of view of India as a whole. To that extent I entirely agree with him. I think that the House has to decide this matter with patriotic and not with a Provincial or a parochial outlook. But I would also claim this that if I can satisfy Honourable Members that the decision, which Government have taken, they have taken in order to benefit India as a whole, then I shall claim from them not merely an emphatic verdict in support of the proposal but I hope a unanimous verdict. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, the question falls, rather the argument falls into three parts : first there is the scientific argument, second the financial and third the administrative. I will develop the scientific argument first. After what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi, and even more from my Honourable friend, Mr. Hockenull, whom I wish to congratulate on his maiden speech, after what fell from him, Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to try to demonstrate the necessity for agricultural research in an agricultural country like India. The example of countries like the United States of America or Australia points indisputably to that axiomatic conclusion. Then, again, the pages of the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture give ample evidence in support of the necessity of agricultural research. The question for consideration for the House is : Where should such a centre or centres of research be located ? I submit, Sir, the answer to that question depends upon a correct appreciation of the nature of agricultural research. This is of two kinds ; there

is fundamental research and there is field research. Now the latter kind of research involves investigation into the relation of particular crops to special conditions of soil and climate. That research or that kind of research, in so far as it concerns crops of value to more than one part of India, is being carried on at Coimbatore, is being carried on at Karnal, and since the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research came into being, it is being carried on also through Provinces by means of special grants relating to special crops. In its purely Provincial aspect, Sir, that kind of research is the function of Provincial Departments of Agriculture ; and the point which Honourable Members ought to appreciate is that field research, in the sense in which I have explained it, has never been the main function of Pusa, or for the matter of that, of central research institutes anywhere else. The function of a central research institute is to devote itself to all the main branches of agriculture, such as mycology, entomology, bacteriology, and so on.

Now, Sir, the point which I should like specially to emphasise is this, that that kind of research,—although my Honourable friend, Maulvi Shafee Daoodi, may differ from me,—cannot be carried on on the top of Mount Everest, because of its complete isolation from distractions. That is not so ; as a matter of fact, what you need in order that that kind of research should be most fruitful is cultural contact, easy, wide and stimulating. Inaccessibility for that kind of research involves inefficiency and rusticity. It does not really mean that the best results are achieved. It has been said that because the time-table of the Bengal and North Western Railway has been slightly improved recently, therefore Pusa has become much more accessible. But the fact remains that the Royal Commission on Agriculture went into this question very very carefully and said that the result of the location of Pusa in this isolated site was that the thread of association between Pusa and the Provinces had become progressively attenuated. Now, Sir, I have been asked a question by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I find that he is unfortunately not in his seat just now. The question I was asked was this : In 1903 or 1904, when the Pusa Institute was established, the Government of India must have satisfied themselves that it was the best centre suited for agricultural research. That being so, why is it that Government are changing their mind now ? Well, Sir, the position is this. As the Royal Commission on Agriculture have stated in their report, the consideration which primarily weighed with Government at the time in selecting Pusa was that a large abandoned estate,—an estate which at one time had been used, I think, for breeding horses,—was available ; and let it not also be forgotten that, at that time, the Provinces had practically no Departments of Agriculture at all. The last 30 years, Sir, have seen rapid strides made by the Provinces in the development of their Agriculture Departments and their research work. Now, Sir, I do not for a minute maintain that accessibility is important only in so far as it enables the officials of the Government of India to come into touch with the work that is being done at Pusa. That is not the point at all. The point is that you must have your centre of research in a place where research workers from all over India, unofficial research workers, should be able to travel with ease and with comfort. That, Sir, is a condition which in the case of Pusa is not fulfilled.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : How is it done as regards forest research at Dehra Dun ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend will agree that Dehra Dun is not so isolated as Pusa. If he would be so good as to accompany me to the Library downstairs where, I believe, there is a Railway map of India, I think, I shall be able to satisfy him on that point.

Now, it is perfectly true, that when the Royal Commission on Agriculture reported, they did not suggest that Pusa should be transferred to a more central site. But the situation has been altered and fundamentally altered because of the earthquake. My Honourable friends will ask, why and how? That brings me to the second part of the argument which is the financial argument. Perhaps it is not known to Honourable Members that Pusa costs seven lakhs of rupees a year to maintain. That is the reduced expenditure; it used to be nine lakhs a year at one time. Our engineers visited this place and they said that not only should we have to spend seven lakhs of rupees on reconstructing the Phipps laboratory which has been completely destroyed, but, by reason of the unascertained, and, I think, unascertainable subterranean ravages worked by the earthquake, it would be at least two years before we would be justified in starting construction work there. Now, Sir, seven times two is 14, and, adding seven which is the cost of reconstruction, the total comes to 21. That is 21 lakhs on the one side and 36 lakhs, which is the estimate of expenditure, on the other. The difference is 15 lakhs, and the question which was before Government, and which is before the House now, is whether 15 lakhs of rupees is too big a price to pay for making Pusa accessible for research workers from every part of India. Now, Sir, let me put the financial point in a different way. I do not think that there is any one in this House or outside the House whose authority in regard to agricultural work done at Pusa, or, for that matter, agricultural work throughout India, is entitled to greater respect than that of my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce. I have discussed this matter with him and he says that the value of the work which is being done at Pusa and which costs seven lakhs of rupees per annum will be at least doubled if you bring the institute to a more central place. Again, putting it on a purely arithmetical basis, the question which I ask this House is whether an expenditure of 15 lakhs which would have the effect of doubling the value of research which costs us seven lakhs is worth it or not worth it.

The third point, Sir, which I was going to deal with was the administrative argument. It is no secret from anybody that inaccessibility is an obstacle to the exercise of effective administrative control. The potential value of that supervisory work or that supervision has greatly increased since the establishment of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research with its staff of agricultural experts, and, what is even more important, its periodical conferences which are attended by representatives of agricultural research work throughout India. It would be admitted, Sir, that in order that the potential value of the supervision should be fully realised, we should bring this institute to a more central place.

There, Sir, I have dealt with the three parts of my argument, the scientific, the financial and the administrative. My Honourable friends may still say: "Yes, that's all very fine, but it does not necessarily follow that Delhi is the best place from the agricultural point of view."

Now, I think I am not making too bold a claim for the neighbourhood of Delhi, when I say that it is part of the Indo-Gangetic plain, of which the fertility is a historic fact....

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : Fertility in warfare !

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : In this particular case we have had the assistance of science to test the truth of tradition. We have had the water analysed ; we have had the soil analysed. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, said yesterday that the value of this analysis is very little, because the *abracadabra* of scientific formulæ had not been communicated to the House or to Members of the Standing Finance Committee. I submit that this House, consisting as it does of laymen like myself, is not likely to be greatly edified by the presentation of chemical formulæ. If I said that $2\text{Na Cl} + \text{H}_2 \text{SO}_4 = \text{Na}_2 \text{SO}_4 + 2 \text{H Cl}$ no one would be much the wiser for it. What the House needed and what they are entitled to ask Government is that Government should satisfy themselves on the evidence of experts, whether the expenditure they propose to incur or the step that they propose to take is justified in accordance with the evidence that can be made available. We have satisfied ourselves in regard to that. And, I may point out that, although these written analyses were not presented to the Standing Finance Committee, the experts who had made those analyses were present at each meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, in order to answer any questions that might be asked of them by Honourable Members of the Standing Finance Committee. In any case, let me say that Government accept the rider which was made by the majority of the Standing Finance Committee in regard to this matter, namely, that before money is actually invested in the acquisition of a site, every precaution shall be taken to make sure that it is a suitable site.

Then, Sir, there has been a campaign in certain sections of the Press, as persistent as it has been perverse, to the effect that Government have reached their conclusion by some sinister and subterranean methods. One suggestion which has been made is that they had made up their mind to shift the Institute from Pusa to Delhi long before this earthquake took place. Another suggestion that has been made is that Government have taken this decision in order to satisfy the hankering of the staff at Pusa for the gaieties of Imperial Delhi. As regards the first suggestion and as regards the second, Sir, I may be using a strong word, but I am saying something which is only fair to us, namely, that both are calumnies. In regard to the first, namely, the decision of the Government before the earthquake, I say it is absolutely devoid of foundation. And, I think the House will agree—I am making this claim in no spirit of boasting or vain glory at all—that after the part which the Government of India have played and are playing in the reconstruction of Bihar, the very suggestion of spoliation is ungenerous to say the least. And, so far as the staff of the Institute at Bihar are concerned, they took no initiative in this matter at all. The responsibility is the responsibility of the Government and the Government alone. But I do not wish to....

Sir Abdur Rahim : The Honourable Member says the staff took no initiative in this matter : have they supported the proposed transfer ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : The business of a loyal staff is to carry out the decision of Government. As I was saying, I do not wish to conclude what I have to say on a note either of controversy or of resentment. The issue, as I said when I began, in order to be judged correctly, must be judged dispassionately. Government in reaching the decision that they have reached have been animated by a desire solely to serve the best interests of agriculturists throughout India without damage or detriment to any

[Mr. G. S. Bajpai.]

part of it. Pusa was doing work, not for one Province, but for India as a whole. To the extent that that work benefited Bihar, the transfer is not going to reduce the benefit to that Province by one jot or tittle. As for the minor but important part which Pusa played in the agricultural economy of Bihar through the Botanical sub-station, it is our intention to continue it. For Government are considering, even now, the feasibility of transferring or rather devoting to the maintenance of that sub-station in Bihar the expenditure which is being incurred at present on the sub-station for North-West India at Karnal and which really would, I think, become unnecessary when the institute is moved to Delhi. That would, I hope, satisfy even my Honourable friends from Bihar, that the Government of India have in this matter taken into account what is the true interest of Bihar as well as the true interest of India. And so, Sir, I ask the House to support the proposal of Government as a proposal conceived in a spirit of service to all and of malice to none of the constituent parts of this country. (Cheers.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of expenses in connection with ‘ Capital Outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research ’.”

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, it has already been obvious for some hours that the debate on the proposal to amend the Salt Resolution could not be carried on under very favourable circumstances : it has been quite clear that neither the Honourable Member opposite, who has put down the proposal to amend the Resolution, nor I would have time to expose fully our respective points of view. As soon as that became clear, the two Honourable Members most interested in this together with myself and the Honourable the Law Member decided to have an informal discussion. Certain suggestions which emerged from that discussion are being pursued and there was general agreement on both sides that in view of the fact that the debate could not be carried on satisfactorily, it had much better be postponed till a more suitable occasion ; and that is the proposal that I have to make, with the concurrence of the two Honourable Members opposite, that this motion be not moved and that the discussion on this subject of salt be postponed till the next Session.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, the House must have learned with great relief that I do not propose to move the Resolution which stands in my name. (Laughter.) As the Honourable the Finance Member has said, we had a very full informal discussion which was characterised by the usual frankness of the Honourable the Finance Member, and we, on this side, hope that we have been able to enlist his active sympathy in the cause which we wanted to advocate through this Resolution. Speaking for the last time in this House, may I express the hope that whatever happens in future, the Government will not give up the policy which they had solemnly adopted, namely, that of making India self-supporting in regard to our salt supplies and protecting the salt industry of this country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Gentlemen, our labours have now concluded. Before I adjourn this House for the last time, I wish to express to all Honourable Members my deep appreciation of the courtesy they have shown to me personally and my thanks for the co-operation they have extended to the Chair in enabling the Chair to conduct the proceedings of this House smoothly. Ever since you called upon me to occupy this great position of honour and responsibility, I have set before myself one supreme task, and that is to maintain to the best of my ability, the authority, dignity and the independence of the Chair. (Hear, hear.) If, during the last two years, I have given offence to any individual Members in anything that I may have said or done, I would take this opportunity of assuring every Honourable Member that what I did was done in the interests and the convenience of the House as a whole. During the last eleven years during which it has been my privilege to be a Member of this House, I have looked upon that membership in a very high light. I think that the value of the work in the Legislative Assembly is not to be measured merely in terms of the legislative output of every Session. To my mind, the Indian Legislative Assembly is the one great institution which offers a unique opportunity for representatives from all over our great country to meet together and exchange their ideals and aspirations, and this institution from that point of view has indeed a greater value to India than if it is looked upon merely as a legislative institution. Honourable Members will go back, some to fight their elections and give an account to their constituencies ; others go back probably to other walks of life. To all of them, I say, let good luck attend every one of you. It has been the immemorial custom of the Mother of Parliaments that, at the end of every Parliament, every Member of the House of Commons comes up to the Dais and shakes hands with the Speaker. This ceremony, in this instance, may, in the case of certain Members, be a good bye, in the case of others it may simply be *au revoir*. But in every case it would be a symbol of that amity and co-operation which have existed between the Chair and every section and Member of this House. (Cheers.) I would now invite the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore as the Leader of the House to come and shake hands with me and lead. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

(All the Members then shook hands with Mr. President.)

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

(2489)

APPENDIX.*

Mr. N. R. Gunjal (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I have already opposed Honourable Mr. Ranga Iyer's Temple Entry Bill : today also I am opposing it emphatically. The Assembly is not the forum where religious and social legislation should be passed.

For the last fifty or sixty years, departed leaders like Lokmanya Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Babu Bepin Chandra Pal and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, after undergoing imprisonment and hardships, strived hard for establishing and securing to us democratic rights in this country. Does not Mr. Ranga Iyer realise that the souls of these worthies must be writhing in agony over his Bill and ridiculous pranks in the Assembly.

This Bill has been wounding the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus ; it strikes at the root of their long standing social order, namely, *Chaturvarna*. This Assembly is no place for such legislation. It has only a political field. Here, people's representatives should only strive for securing national batterment and saving the people from the oppression of the British bureaucracy.

Turning to the opinions received on the Bill, I find that the consensus of opinion of the high or low officials in British India is against the Bill. The Bombay Government say : " The Sanatanist Hindus are strongly opposed to the Bill, and, if passed, there will be a danger to the peace." The Advocate-General of Bombay, Sir Kanga, says : " The majority of the Hindus do not support the Bill ; therefore, I do not support it." The Public Prosecutor of the Bombay High Court, Mr. P. B. Shingne, is opposed to this Bill. Almost all the District Judges and the District Magistrates and other officials are opposed to it ; so also all the Sanatanist institutions. Even Jaina and Lingayat communities are opposed to it. The different organizations of the untouchables also do not seem to be so keen on temple entry as on their economic and industrial betterment ; they do not attach much importance to the Bill. Similarly, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, the Punjab, Bengal, Burma, Bihar and Orissa, the North-West Frontier Province, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and the Delhi Province are all opposed to the Bill. It should specially be noted that Rohilkund, which constituency my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer represents, is equally opposed to the Bill. Religious heads like His Holiness Shri Shankaracharya, Sankeshwar, H. H. Shri Shankaracharya, Puri, H. H. Shri Madhwacharya of the Wallabha cult and also of the Veer Vaishnava cult, the Ramanujacharya and the Mahants of Warkari cult do not endorse the Bill. Under these circumstances, is it not ridiculous for Mr. Ranga Iyer to move for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee ?

The Congress was started with the object of political advancement of India. In 1895, a session of the Congress was held in Poona, when it was resolved that the Congress should leave alone religious and social matters. The Congress policy was, in former times, directed by the moderates, but, later on, in 1908, at Surat, Lokmanya Tilak captured it, and made it, after strenuous efforts, really representative of the public opinion in India. The Congress policy was directed upto 1920 by Lokmanya Tilak, and the establishment of a democratic form of Government was the result. Mr. Tilak died in 1920 and Mahatma Gandhi, who calls himself a disciple of the late Mr. Gokhale, came at the helm of the Congress. He started con-

*Translation of the speech delivered in vernacular on the 23rd August, 1934.

[Mr. N. R. Gunjal.]

demning and despising the Maharashtra and Lokmanya's followers. He expressed his want of faith in them. He started non-violent non-co-operation and civil disobedience movements, advocated boycott of schools, colleges, Courts, and suspension of practice by lawyers ; he promised Swaraj within one year and collected a crore of rupees in the name of the late Mr. Tilak. The people also have an idea as to how this fund and the Khaddar Fund were disbursed. That his policy has proved detrimental to the interests of the people is the experience of many.

Suspending those activities, he has now undertaken the Harijan uplift and temple entry movements, for which he is collecting funds amounting to lakhs ; it is to be seen how this fund is going to be utilized. Temple Entry *satyagraha* was first started at Poona at the Parvati Temple ; but we opposed it. When Mahatma Gandhi realized that his precepts fell flat on the people, he resorted to the very Legislative Assembly, whose boycott he once preached.

His right-hand man, Mr. Rajagopalachariar, intrigued with Mr. Ranga Iyer and several other Members of the Assembly to get the Temple Entry Bill passed. At the instance of Mahatma Gandhi, he also wrote us letters that non-Hindu Members should abstain from voting on the Bill. If the matter is to be left to the opinion of the Hindus alone, I may point out that the majority of them is opposed to the Bill ; and since the majority of the official and public opinion is against the Bill, the Government must also oppose the Bill. But I do not think that it is proper for Mr. Ranga Iyer to withdraw the Bill after the Government actually oppose it. It seems necessary for me to give this hint to Mr. Ranga Iyer as he is the representative of the people.

Now, if we take into careful consideration the ownership of temples, the people who desire entrance thereto, the legislators, I think it is not possible for the untouchables to get entrance to any temple. The managers and trustees of the temples will not at all be amenable to this Bill. Mr. Ranga Iyer is unnecessarily siding with the untouchables and fickle-minded leaders ; he is sure to come to grief. What sacrifice has he made for the untouchables ? Has he ever given them even a single tattered shirt of his ? If any temple was ever built by his predecessors, what was the original arrangement and what is the present one ? Can he say whether untouchables are allowed free entry to it ?

I shall now quote what some of the past Hindu saints have said about this question of untouchability. Shri Sant Tukaram says this about immemorial customs and rights of the *Chaturvarna* :

"(1) *Chaturvarnā rākṣhīti tu śhrēṣṭhā, Tārī tu pāvēi uttam lok.*

(2) *Dharma rakshāvayāsānṭhi, Karne āti āmhasi, Vāche bol ved nēeti, Karun santi kelenten.*

(3) *Mārg dākhvōoni gele āndhi, kripānīdhi sant te.*

(4) *Dharmāche pālan, karne pākhand khand.*

(5) *Chokhāmela sant, jivāche soyire, nāpado visare yānchā ghadi."*

Shri Ramdas says this :

"(1) *Dharmāsānṭhi jagāve, dharmāsānṭhi marāve, Adhi dharma magachi swarāj."*

Similar are the utterances of untouchable saints like Chokhamela and Rahidas. These saints are highly respected amongst Vaishnavas (Varkaris)

of the Maharashtra, a cult of the Vedic religion started by Dyaneshwar Maharaj.

Sir, we zamindars have been giving, in recognition of the right of the untouchables, a portion of the crops that we raise from the land for their subsistence. But for this, the untouchables would have long ago discarded the Hindu fold. The champion of the cause of the untouchables, I mean Mahatma Gandhi, celebrated the occasion of the breaking of his recent fast of a week by reciting prayers from the Bible and the Koran. Have the untouchables ever thought about this? Is there no Hindu prayer to Mahatma Gandhi's liking?

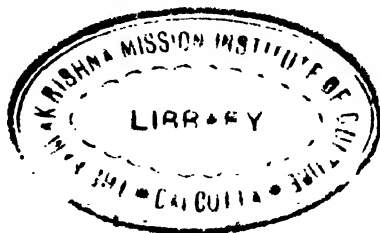
The Honourable Mr. Ranga Iyer has given quotations from the opinions of Messrs. Tilak and Gokhale to show that they supported temple entry by means of legislation. He says, this opinion has been expressed in the *Gitarahasya*. Can he quote any sentences to that effect from that book?

Loknayak Aney and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, both *ex-members* of the Assembly, are opposed to this Bill and are of the opinion that social and religious legislation should not be brought before the Assembly.

I would have spoken on the Bill for a couple of hours more; but since you, Sir, desire me to curtail my remarks, I shall now bring them to a close. I am thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me a couple of hours to speak.

A word to my friend, Mr. Ranga Iyer. He should not bring forward such measures as would cause dissensions among the Hindu community. He should devote his intellect to other fields of beneficent and patriotic activities. I hope he will withdraw the Bill before it is opposed by Government. In this action, he will merely be following the public opinion. Lastly, I express my admiration for the work of the Varnashram Swarajya Sanga in voicing the true public opinion in the country. The Bill has served for the followers of the Sanatan Dharma as an incentive to national work. It is adversity that prompts to action.

Sir, on behalf of Maharashtra and as a humble follower of the Sanatan Dharma, I strongly oppose Mr. Ranga Iyer's motion to refer the Temple Entry Bill to a Select Committee.



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